











THE  
HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,  
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE recent discovery of a parcel of documents relating to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland under Simon, Earl Harcourt, necessitates a retrograde treatment of these papers. It was at the option of the Editor to have comprised this new matter in a second part to be added to the third volume, or else to allow the ninth volume to return to the Memoir of Simon, Earl Harcourt. The latter course has been adopted, as the irregularity appeared to be of little moment in dealing with a series of family papers which are not bound by any strict rules of chronology.

In preparing this collection for the press more care has been taken to select papers illustrative of Lord Harcourt's private feelings and position, than to cull out only such as are of public interest.

The series commences with a few letters

from Lord Harcourt's Secretary at the end of his embassy to Paris.

The said Secretary was a devoted but a somewhat impetuous servant. He did his employer good service, but at the same time occasionally led him into difficulties. Lord Harcourt always stood by him faithfully, as is more particularly shewn in some of the unprinted letters.

The illustrations which these letters display of the methods adopted to obtain parliamentary influence were by no means peculiar to Ireland in those days; although from the smaller field of action there those methods became more conspicuous.

What will strike the reader most especially is the apparent calm that reigned, and the absence of complaints that prevailed, under such a system of government.

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## Harcourt Papers.

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AS has been explained in the Preface, the present volume commences with the last year of Lord Harcourt's tenure of office as Ambassador to the French Court. The size of the volume greatly exceeds what was anticipated ; little room, therefore, is left for editorial remarks, and, indeed, the letters which follow speak sufficiently for themselves.

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*" Paris, August 29th, 1771.*

"MY LORD,— . . . The Prince de Beauveau is dismissed from the government of Languedoc, it being signified to him, in the politest terms, that it could not be agreeable to him to do any business in the king's name which would be so very repugnant to his declared principles at the *Lit de Justice*. The Comte de Perigord is appointed in his stead, which many people think will move Mr. B.

to resign his company of guards ; this is the news of the day.

\* \* \* \* \*

"We have been all exceeding anxious about your voyage, as Capt. Affleck says a more rascally day than Sunday was never seen ; but it has rather cleared up since, and we are not without hopes that you may have had moderate weather for your passage yesterday.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I thank you, my Lord, much for the Pye, 'twould have been a shame to eat it by oneself. I gave it to Mrs. Abington—she gave it to Mademoiselle Arnould ; we supped upon it at her house ; 'twas excellent beyond measure, quite *a la suprême*. The ladies were charming company—we are to have a repitition of it, not of the Pye, but everything else, next Monday.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The D. de Richelieu sets off to-morrow *pour faire la besogne* of the Parliament of Bordeaux. It is thought Mons<sup>r</sup>. de Ducas will be removed from the government of Britany, and Mons<sup>r</sup>. l'Abbé Jerraie from his department, as soon as 'tis settled whether 'tis to be the Chancellor or M<sup>r</sup>. D'Aiguillon that is to have the nomination of his successor. People are scarcely yet come to town, tho' I have no right to complain, having received many polite messages and invitations.

The Count D'Ezek was here himself to-day to invite me for to-morrow, upon which, as upon ten thousand more important matters, you have, my Lord, my warm and millions of thanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I hope my good friend the Colonel<sup>a</sup> is with you, may I offer my grateful and most affectionate remembrance & service to him—my respects to my Lord & Lady Newnham? I am, my Lord, with the truest devotion & gratitude, your most & ever obliged & faithful humble servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Paris, Sept. 3rd, 1771.*

"MY LORD,—The Duke D'Aiguillon told me this morning that as you were so much *au fait* of all the Canada business, he had thought it right and the shortest way too, to signify to you their determination upon it; that he had informed you they would pay 200,000 livres yearly and regularly; and, as the whole sum did not exceed two millions, everything within a certain space of time would be finally adjusted. I told him I was fearful that a period so very distant as nine or ten years for the final liquidation of this account would

<sup>a</sup> Lord Harcourt's second son.

be very ill received by the proprietors of the Canada paper; and that they would hardly be brought to acquiesce to it. He said the original right was very questionable, and that it was principally property purchased from French subjects. I told him I had never seen it stated in that light; that, on the contrary, as far as I had understood, the original right had been very fully acknowledged; but that, as he had taken his arrangements abroad, it would not become me to trouble him with my private opinions upon the matter, as he would soon receive an answer to his letter.

“He was much hurried and full of business, having had the foreign ministers with him (then two o'clock) since eight in the morning,—the Spanish and Imperial ambassadors, each closetted for near an hour. I just touched upon the unfortunate writers of the French Gazette—that I had presumed to hope their fate was not absolutely determined; he said ‘beyond redemption,’ for that he was to see and settle with their successors this very evening. I told him I was indeed very sorry for it, as I had reason to believe he would have some importunity from London upon the subject; as when you left Compiegne I had understood it to be your intentions to request his good offices *aupres de sa Majesté tres Chretienne* to have them restored. It is inconceivable what a fuss this makes in Paris. Many of your particular friends are

very anxious advocates for them. Prince Louis has spoke to me vastly about them ; but nobody dares speak to the Duke D'Aiguillon. Prince Louis told me just now the income was 30,000 livres a year—that one of 'em will not want bread. It is not probable they should be reappointed, but I do think some consideration may be obtained for them, if there should be no objection to your exercising your wonted humanity.

\* \* \* \* \*

“At Mr. Anson's request I promised to speak about his affairs to Mr. de Boïsne.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I had to-day an opportunity of doing so. With all the openness imaginable Mr. de Boïsne told me that tho' Mr. Anson's charges were exorbitant yet he had grounds for his complaints ; that it was from motives of simple justice and humanity that he protracted giving his judgment, which had been some time settled in his mind ; but, that he could not do so till he knew the kind of specie with which it was intended to reimburse this gentleman ; ‘for,’ says he, ‘I should be doing but miserable justice in paying him 100 livres in paper, which, perhaps, hereafter would fetch but sixty. I wait only for this decision from Mr. L'Abbé Jerrai and his officer. We must give them a little time—*vous m'entendez bien*. I must not hold this language to Mr. Anson—*cela ne conviendrait pas*—

but let him rest assured he shall be satisfied.' I must own, my Lord, this kind of integrity and language, where (God forgive me) it was so little expected, struck me with astonishment. I shall begin to think Mr. de Boïsne's heart almost upon a par with his head ; than which you know there are none superior hereabouts.

"Mr. De Bloome told me that in a conversation t'other day with the Spanish Ambassador the latter told him that it was principally on account of the French that all things had been interdicted the Spanish ports. It seems to me an odd declaration. The Duke D'Aiguillon dined to-day at the Imperial Ambassador's—he enquired much after your Lordship, and was monstrous civil to me. Talking about the models of the fortifications that are kept in the Louvre, he told me he would send me an order to see them at all times when I pleased, a favour you may be sure I should not have dreamt of asking, and at which some of those who were near us stared. Mons<sup>r</sup>. de Breteuil in a fit of delicacy is gone for a fortnight into the country, that he may give M. de Guines all the fair play imaginable, and not be thought to machinate against him. Mr. Preston, being luckily detained till night for his passport, furnished me with this opportunity of writing to your Lordship. I presume you will communicate some part of this letter to my Lord Rochford. I should have addressed his

Lordship myself, had not Duke D'Aiguillon told me his letter upon this business was to you, which makes the same channel more natural.

"I have the honor to be, and ever shall be, my Lord, with the utmost respect and gratitude,

"y<sup>r</sup> most faithfull servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*"Paris, Sept. 11th, 1771.*

"MY LORD,— . . . The Duke D'Aiguillon was so busied yesterday we did not sit down to dinner till near 4 o'clock. He took me aside after dinner, and again talked to me about our newspapers—the Portsmouth paragraph—asking me in the most friendly manner if it was really impossible to punish the people, or check it. As he read the translation of the papers daily, I told him he must have observed what audacious attacks were made constantly upon everything we had which was most sacred, from which he would readily judge of the impossibility of preventing it. If, however, this Portsmouth paragraph is absolutely without foundation, I believe it would make them happy to receive some civil message upon it; which I could readily deliver if it was thought proper. He had been told your Lordship was not to return, which I thought I could safely contra-



dict, and which I did contradict most peremptorily, to his satisfaction.

“In the course of the conversation he gave me a fair opportunity (for we are monstrous well together) of asking him about Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Breteuil & de Guines; he shook his head, as much as to say he would not talk upon the subject; giving me to understand things were not quite ripe for the purpose. By the by, M. de Guines, notwithstanding what waits for him, was received by the King with rather extraordinary marks of attention; a practise not uncommon with his most Christian Majesty when a man is doomed to destruction. The Utrecht Gazette is suspended, by order, for the humorous history they gave of the cavalcade which your Lordship saw at Compiegne. M<sup>r</sup>. Turpin has asked to go to the confederates, but has been refused. M. Viomeuil, they say, is absolutely to have the command in chief of all the confederates, when he arrives. But M<sup>r</sup>. Wilhourski told us yesterday he was only to assist with his councils. I dined a most agreeable party at the Nonce's, Sunday, there were of the corps, besides my insignificant self, only the Sardinian, Venetian, and Neapolitan Ambassadors, so that I look upon it and am told it is a mark of distinguishing favor. He drank your health, and it was in the best Burgundy without exception I ever tasted in my life. I am just invited for the same party



next Sunday at Venice. Mad<sup>me</sup> Du Deffend (who, by the by, will not let me in quiet if I don't sup every other night at her house) takes all occasions of abusing her friend M<sup>r</sup>. Rob<sup>t</sup> Walpole to me like a pickpocket. M<sup>r</sup>. Bordeau told me two gentlemen of his acquaintance had offered fifty thousand pounds for the tobacco contract; which he yet thinks M<sup>r</sup>. J. Walpole will have, thro' the means and negotiation of M<sup>r</sup>. Necker the minister of Geneva.

"Your horses are all well. I have too many things to thank you for. I have forgot ever to mention them. If they had half my vanity they would thank me for giving them so many occasions of being admired. I expected *les deux avarés* to-night for the Colonel, but they have disappointed me. It is now that I am going to write with pain what you will read in tears. Poor Madame la Duchesse de Rochefoucault was thrown from her horse, who had run away with her, and fractured her skull. She was trepanned without feeling it, lingered four days, and died yesterday morning; regretted as she will be by you and all worthy people for ever. I love the Dauphiness more than ever for having tears in her eyes yesterday morning when she talked about her.

"I am, my Lord, ever & unfeignedly

"Your obliged & devoted Serv<sup>t</sup>,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*"Paris, Dec. 29th, 1771.*

"MY LORD,—You will have approved, I hope, of my sending off the messages the day before yesterday, the moment I received the Duke d'Aiguillon's memorandum; which I look upon as decisive with regard to the ill intentions of Spain.

\* \* \* \* \*

"What I picked up from Count Fuentes was exceeding strong; the Duke's anxiety greater than ever; and, all things combined, every information I could obtain I thought it necessary to communicate without delay; both on account of your Lordship's departure, and of the meeting of Parliament. We have been a little, indeed not a little, alarmed at these Irish affairs. The Lord-Lieutenant must be changed—the eyes of the world are upon your Lordship as the natural & only man to do the king's business there. Should such an event happen I shall look on myself as the most miserable of men.

\* \* \* \* \*

"However, there is some comfort in your own letter. You seem to think Lord Weymouth may be the man. I have not usually been so self-

interested—but, forgive me, my Lord, you cannot think how much pleasure those lines have given me.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The Dutch Ambassador desired me to remind you of his chaise and some porter, that I think you was so good to promise him. M. de Lugeac says you were so kind to engage sending him six bottles of peppermint-water, & some turnip-seed.

“Mr. Barnard, who, as I understand, has been employed buying prints of drawings for the king, desired I would send in my name for a catalogue of the French king’s library; as I find it will not be delivered without a formal application to M. de la Vrilliere, I did not chuse doing it without consulting your Lordship, begging you to tell me how far such a step may be approved of.

“I am ever, my Lord, with most unfeigned attachment & gratitude,

“Your obed<sup>t</sup> & devoted Serv<sup>t</sup>,

“J. BLAQUIERE.”

In the month of June, 1772, Lord Harcourt accepted the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland. He appointed Colonel Blaquiere his Secretary. It appears that Lord North had rather expected to be consulted on that

matter, as the appointment was one of great pecuniary value.

Difficulties beset Lord Harcourt's advent to Ireland, no less than his departure from it. The letters, however, will tell their own tale.

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*“London, Wed., July 1st, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—... The whole arrangement stands thus. My Lord Townshend is to remain in Ireland till you arrive ; there is to be no *interregnum*, Lords Justices, or deputy.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The vessel which carries one Lord-Lieutenant is to bring the other back ; and upon your signifying from Holyhead your arrival there, my Lord Townshend will embark on board his yacht in Dublin Bay, and await your arrival in Ireland. My Lord Stormont awaits Sir R. Keith's arrival at Vienna ; he has not yet accepted the French Embassage, tho' there is not a doubt he will ; but the delay in his answer prevents Keith's appointment. Lord Suffolk told me, however, he thought he would be named on Friday. In the mean time Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> setts out in a few days, not for Vienna but for Scotland, to solace himself with his friends,

and get some relaxation from business; after which he will have to prepare his equipages and other matters for his journey, which, upon a moderate computation, may carry us at least into September. He does not fly in his travels neither, but goes round by Dresden, where some days at least may be spent; and if he gets to Vienna the beginning of October 'twill be the utmost.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I have taken the liberty to represent these matters particularly to my Lord Suffolk, whom I have found exceedingly disposed to hear what I have had to say. It was rational to ask which Ambassador we were to acknowledge at Paris on my Lord Stormont's arrival; and, as one of the two must naturally be on the *Pavée*, to which of them that favor was destined.

\* \* \* \* \*

"*Friday, 3 July.* My Lord Rochford has just informed me that the king, having considered the inconvenience which the awaiting in Paris my Lord Stormont's arrival must be to your affairs, had directed him to acquaint your Lordship you were at liberty to quit Paris the first week in August; and that he further wished to know how long you would desire to remain in England before you passed into your Government. I conclude this to be done with a view of acquainting Lord Townshend when he must prepare for his

return, and that they may send him orders accordingly. From what I collected in my conversation with Lord Rochford, it seems to be expected that you may require six weeks or two months to tarry in England, to settle your own private affairs, and prepare for the undertaking.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I am to dine *en famille* to-morrow with my Lord Rochford, which will I hope enable me to bring you further particulars, and to settle the hour of my own departure.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I was two hours with my Lord North this morning; not a word about anything but finance, upon which he was pleased to say I had afforded him considerable information.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Queen asked again much about your Lordship's health, which was being very gracious and kind to me. I have a power of things to relate when I have the happiness of seeing your Lordship; enough to overwhelm and stagger even your patience.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I am ever, my Lord, your obliged and devoted  
Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*“Leicester House, Wednesday, July 24th, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—The King did me the honour to speak to me very graciously at his levee to-day, and to call me into his closet afterwards, where he asked me much about the internal state of affairs in France, &c., as I shall have the honor of telling you when it is my good fortune to see you again. I had a long conversation with Lord Suffolk, who is officiating for Lord Rochford, and with my Lord North some confabulation also. Lord Suffolk and Lord Rochford are both of them incredulous about Portugal, tho’ I think I have staggered their faith. Lord Suffolk has desired me to come to him at Hampton to dinner on Sunday, that we may again talk the matter over. Lord Rochford behaved to me with the utmost frankness, and in a way that makes me much obliged to him.

“Lord North received me with cold and distant civility, but in the course of the conversation, touching by accident upon the topic of their French finances, which I believe he found I was acquainted with much better than himself, he soon changed his note, entered with politeness into a warm discussion upon the subject, and begged me to come to him at Bushey Park that we may



discuss the matter at ease together. It is my duty to pardon his reserve at the first approach, as he is much disappointed not to have the disposal of your Chief Secretary-ship. The office was meant to be continued to Sir G. McCartney, or as a provision for Colonel Burgoyne. Lord Rochford is very inaccurate in his intelligence about my Lord Stormont's movements. I find he is ordered to remain at Vienna till Sir R. Smith's arrival. Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Keith only came to London last Saturday, and told me to-day he had no orders yet about setting off. Langley refuses to return to Vienna, so that my Lord Stormont must have patience; and indeed it looks altogether as if they were very well satisfied to have y<sup>r</sup> Lordship at Paris as long as they can.

"My Lord Suffolk told me Lord Townshend has desired to stay in Ireland a much longer time than was reasonable. I took the liberty to ask him if it could be conducive to good government to suffer the man who was to quit the country before the engagement began, to retain the controul of affairs with all the consequential advantages, at the expense of the person who was to bear the brunt & heat of the day. 'Certainly not, very improper,' says my Lord, 'and you may depend upon it, it shall be represented and it must be considered.' Indeed, my Lord, I cannot help thinking that you will find it necessary to ask



leave to present yourself in London, and it is impossible that there can be any objection to leaving me in charge at Paris, where there is certainly nothing, just now, to do.

\* \* \* \* \*

"However, according to the intelligence I shall be able to pick up and send you in my next, you will be able to form a better judgment upon the matter. Mr. Jenkinson<sup>b</sup>, as I mentioned in my last, is much hurt at not seeing his brother in your family<sup>c</sup>; he seems to rest a good deal on having furnished such early intelligence respecting your appointment, and says that it appears almost impossible you could then have been engaged. I told him that I understood from your Lordship, nay, that you had told me, you thought one of your aid-de-camps something below his walk—'not a bit,' he says. I undertook to mention the matter to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I find Mr. Jenkinson peculiarly circumstanced in the case. He has been ill used in it by Lord Townshend, and even by Lord North, and I believe has since refused preferment and favor for his brother from them both, depending upon your kindness and protection.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>b</sup> Afterwards Lord Liverpool.

<sup>c</sup> i.e. the Lord Lieutenant's household.

“The Irish Establishment is as follows:—The Lord-Lieutenant has £16,000 a year—£3,000 for his equipage on being appointed. The Chief Secretary’s income may amount to from £3,500 to £4,000 a year (I thank your Lordship), and generally four hundred, at his starting, is voted in council for his advantage. Two aid-de-camps are kept on the establishment, the other four are paid by Government also, but it is by warrant. There are two Chaplains in ordinary, and, at times, there have been as many as three; these are supposed to have claims on the Lord-Lieutenant’s goodness for preferment. The Viceroy sends three, four, even to the extent of five transmisses of bills in a session, which yield each a benefit of £300. They are given to such as he pleases to oblige; but gentlemen are no longer the actual carriers of the instruments, which are transferred with £40 to a messenger. The fees may amount to about as much more, so that there remains upon every transmiss a nett profit of about £220. The controller and steward of the Lord-Lieutenant’s household are paid with one of these.

“The riding master gets of the *concordatum* money about £100 every session; the gentleman usher much the same. Two gentlemen of the bed chamber who precede his Excellency, and march on all occasions when he appears in public, have commonly the profits of a bill between them.

There are eight 'gentlemen at large,' who have nothing to do, nor a great deal to receive; they only wait behind you at table and have a claim for a belly full. Two pages, who are educated and clothed at your expense, close, as far as I can at present tell, this list. Footmen, porters, and all the menial train, Sir. R. Wilmot could not inform me about; but he wrote last night to Dublin, & will forward the information to me in Paris as soon as it can be made out. I am sorry to find Sir Robert is going to quit the office; he has recommended to Lord Townshend his son for his successor, who has approved of him, and he much hopes that your Lordship will confirm it. Sir Robert tells me he has all along worked with him in the office, & that he shall still continue to give him his assistance; upon these terms Sir Robert's quitting will not be so distressing.

\* \* \* \* \*

"*Friday, 26th.* Mr. Jenkinson talked to me much concerning the recommendation you had received in favor of Lord Bute's son. I think I found that it appeared to him that Lord Bute has met with some slights from some of his friends. He is, therefore, particularly anxious you should, as you cannot appoint him one of your aid-de-camps, give him some promise of preferment, such as leave to purchase a company, or the company without the purchase; and he wishes that on this

subject you would write him such a letter as he may shew to my Lord Bute. I cannot help repeating how very anxious Mr. Jenkinson appears to be to have some immediate public token of your friendship, thro' the means of his brother.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I think I have found out that what he would like would be to be an aid-de-camp, or secretary for Ulster; the latter I take to be every way the more considerable employment. I am confident either of these offices, given immediately, would make Mr. Jenkinson very much beholden to you..."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

*"Paris, Aug. 26th, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—The Compiègne journey is over, and no Mr. St. Paul<sup>d</sup>. The corps diplomatic, the king, and the Royal family go to Versailles tomorrow. I cannot well describe to your Lordship the great effect this princely conduct of His Majesty has had here. Luckily, Cotes, by an accident which does not often happen to him, arrived with our despatches ten minutes before the French courier, which put the whole game into my hands. The Duke knew nothing of any dispute at Newfoundland. 'How can you, sir,' I asked him, 'when I have but this instant orders to declare?' &c.

<sup>d</sup> The new Secretary to Embassy.

The Duke and all the world cry'd praise and wonder. The phlegmatic Fuentes, who I believe a very honest man, kissed both my cheeks, and said there was no king like mine in the world. I refer your Lordship to my dispatch, which is perhaps too circumstantial.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The inclosed papers come to me from the Duke of Aiguillon. It will be less troublesome for your Lordship to read them and return them to me with your orders, than to have attended to any extract of my making. . . ."

## Instructions.

THE following were the Instructions furnished to Lord Harcourt when he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. They are here given at full length.

“Instructions for Our right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin and Councillor Simon, Earl Harcourt, whom we have appointed to be Our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Our Kingdom of Ireland. Given at Our Court at St. James's the Seventeenth Day of October, 1772, in the Twelvth Year of Our Reign.

“GEORGE R.

“Having upon serious consultations for the peace, prosperity and good Government of Our Kingdom of Ireland, made choice of you, for the effecting those ends, as a person of approved loyalty, wisdom, courage, moderation, and integrity; to be Our Lieutenant to represent Our Royal Person there; and having, for the authorizing you therein, already caused Letters Patent to be passed unto you, under Our Great Seal of Great Britain, We doubt not but you will pursue all prudent courses for the good Government, and

increase of the profit of the same. And for the better enabling you thereunto, We do hereby give you full power, and authority to keep the peace, the laws, and commendable customs of Our said Kingdom, to govern all Our people there, to chastize and correct offenders, and to countenance and encourage such as shall do well. And We do also think fit to prescribe unto you some things which will be necessary for you to observe in the Government ; and therefore We do hereby direct and enjoin you.

1<sup>st</sup>.

“That you do, forthwith, with what convenient speed may be, inform yourself particularly of the present state of that Our Kingdom, in all the parts thereof, and what is therein amiss, and by what means the same may be best provided for, and thereof transmit to Us an account in writing, to the end We may receive a perfect knowledge of the same.

2<sup>nd</sup>.

“And forasmuch as the first, and principal foundation of good success in all our actions, doth rest upon the true service of God, We do especially require it of you, that above all things, you endeavour to settle matters so in the Church, that Almighty God may be well served. In order whereunto you are to take care that the Spiritual Livings in Our gift, as they shall become void,



be supplied by pious and Orthodox persons, who, being of good repute, may reside upon their Benefices; and you are also to persuade other patrons of Livings to do the like, and to avoid all manner of corruption in bestowing the same.

3<sup>rd</sup>.

“We do well know how much it concerns the happiness of our subjects, as well as the reputation of Our Government, that there may be an equal and impartial administration of justice in Our several Courts of Judicature of that Our Kingdom, and therefore it must be your particular care, whom We have placed in supreme authority under Us, in that Kingdom, to enquire diligently into the same, how the Judges and Ministers in Our several Courts of Judicature do behave themselves in the discharge of their respective trusts, to the end, that such as are found to deserve ill may be removed, and their places filled with persons of better merit.

4<sup>th</sup>.

“We having thought fit to appoint Commissioners to manage Our whole revenue in that Our Kingdom, Our pleasure is, that you do from time to time, assist, countenance and support Our said Commissioners, and the officers employed by them, upon all occasions, & as justice and Our service



shall require; And you shall also take care that all Our judges, officers and ministers, more especially the Barons of Our Court of Exchequer, do give them all fitting despatch and countenance. You shall also frequently call upon them to give an account of their proceedings in the management of the Commission, and the execution of the trust We have committed to them, of which you are, from time to time, to transmit an account to Us.

5<sup>th</sup>.

“In the survey of escheated, or concealed lands, you shall take care that a better valuation shall be made for Us, than heretofore hath been accustomed; and that Our Surveyor certify no value upon any particular, before a view and inquisition first made and taken of the land, either by himself, or his sufficient Deputy authorised.

6<sup>th</sup>.

“Whensoever there shall be any letters from Us, for disposing of any money to public uses, and there shall be other letters, at the same time, for the payment of any money to any particular persons; in all such cases, you shall prefer the public letters before the private.

7<sup>th</sup>.

“In case it shall happen, at any time, that Our revenues should not hold out to pay the whole

Establishment, you shall take care that the same be not applied to the payment of any pensions, until the rest of the Military and Civil list be first paid ; and if, afterwards, the same will not hold out to the payment of all the pensions, you shall cause a proportionable abatement to be made out of each of them.

8<sup>th</sup>.

“You shall give no orders upon any letters which shall come from Us, for granting any money or lands, or releasing or abating of any rents, or other sums of money due to Us in Our said Kingdom, unless a petition has been first presented to Us, which petition is either to be recommended by you, or the same to be transmitted to you by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and your sense and opinion is to be had thereupon ; afterwards such petition shall be referred to Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our Realm, for the time being, who are to be made acquainted with what you shall write, either in recommending such petition, or upon the transmission of any such to you ; and our said Commissioners’ report, or the report of the High Treasurer for the time being, is to be had thereupon, before any letter or order be signed.

9<sup>th</sup>.

“You shall, as often as you shall see convenient,

order an exact muster to be taken of all Our forces there, that so it may appear if each regiment, company, or troop, be effectually of the number it ought to be, and which we allow upon the pay rolls; taking care it may be done at different times, and at such, and so many convenient places of rendezvous, as may not, in anywise, endanger the safety of the garrisons during the time the soldiers shall be so drawn out. And you shall then and there cause the following oath, and no other, except such as are prescribed by Act of Parliament, to be administered to all the officers and soldiers of the Army, who have not already taken the same, and to all the Governors of towns, forts & castles, who shall be made hereafter, and to such other as you shall think fit, and such of them as shall refuse the said oath, you are to cashier and dismiss the service.

“The Oath of fidelity to be taken by every Officer, Soldier and Governor as above mentioned.

“‘I swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord King George the third, and to serve him honestly & faithfully in the defense of his person, Crown, and dignity, against all his enemies and opposers whatsoever, & to observe and obey His Majesty’s orders, & the orders of the Generals & Officers set over me by His Majesty. So help me God.’

10<sup>th</sup>.

“Whereas We have thought fit to retain to ourselves, the power of granting Commissions to any Officer in Our Army, or to any Governor, or other Officer of any of Our forts & castles, in that Our Kingdom of Ireland, and to reserve the same to Our own disposal ; and it being also Our intention to sign for the future, with Our own hand all Commissions for such offices, and employments, when any of them shall become vacant, you shall forthwith advise Us thereof; and Our will and pleasure is, that at such times as you shall be attending Our Royal Person, you do present the Commissions for such offices and employments unto Us, for Our Royal signature, and do countersign the same ; and that, in your absence in Our said Kingdom, they be presented unto Us, and countersigned by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, but that the fees, which should have become due and payable to such Secretary of State, upon such Commissions, so to be by him presented and countersigned, shall nevertheless be paid to your Secretary.

11<sup>th</sup>.

“You are likewise to take care that Our forces be quartered by such fit rules, as have been heretofore observed, and so as may be with the least burthen, and inconvenience to Our subjects ; and, to that end you are to give strict charge that they

be orderly in their quarters, according to such exact discipline, as you shall find fit to prescribe to them; and that the officers be not allowed or permitted to detain, or keep in their hands the soldiers' pay, after it shall be due to, & actually paid out for them; and that no officer be permitted to be absent from his command, without licence first obtained from you. And, in case any of the officers of Our said forces shall at any time misbehave himself, you shall either cause him to be tried, in due manner, or else immediately to be suspended, as you shall think fit, till you have represented the matter to Us, and received Our pleasure upon it.

12<sup>th</sup>.

"Being informed that there have been frequent duels and quarrels between the Officers of Our Army there, We have thought fit, in order to prevent the same for the future, hereby to authorize and empower you, to cashire from time to time, all such Officers as shall send, receive or deliver any challenge, or give any real affront to any other. And Our pleasure also is, that you declare to such Officer, or Officers so offending that he or they shall never more be employed in Our Service.

13<sup>th</sup>.

"You shall, with what speed conveniently you

may, cause a survey and account to be taken of the present state of Our castles, forts and places, of Our magazines, and also of the Military Stores, and train of Artillery. And you are to report to Us, what fortifications are fit to be kept up, and which dismantled; and for the better supplying Our Stores henceforth with powder, you shall endeavour to erect and set up the art of making salt petre, within that Our Kingdom.

14<sup>th</sup>.

“You shall, in all things, endeavour to advance and improve the trade of that Our Kingdom, so far as may consist with the laws made, and in force, for the welfare and benefit of commerce in this Our Realm of Great Britain, and more especially with those which relate to Our foreign plantations: and we particularly recommend to you the improvement and encouragement of the linen manufacture in that Our Kingdom.

15<sup>th</sup>.

“You shall give all lawful encouragement to all Protestant Strangers resorting to that Our Kingdom; and if a considerable number of them shall be willing to establish themselves in any great cities or towns, or in any other fit places for trade or manufactures, upon representation of the same to Us, We shall give orders, that they shall enjoy

such privileges, as may consist with the laws and peace of that Our Kingdom.

16<sup>th</sup>.

“You must be careful, more particularly, to renew a strict and severe prohibition against the transportation of wool, to any parts beyond the seas, causing a sufficient security to be taken, that whatever quantities shall be, at any time, shipped for Great Britain, be truly brought & landed here, and not carried (as We are informed is but too commonly done) into foreign parts : for the effectual preventing whereof, Our pleasure is, that you take strict order that all such Bonds as shall become forfeited, be, with all vigour and faithfulness, prosecuted against the offenders, without collusion or connivance in those entrusted in that prosecution. And for the better discovery of all frauds therein, you shall cause an exact account of all such Bonds to be, from three months to three months, transmitted to Our Commissioners of Our treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our realm, for the time being ; which We will direct shall be compared with Certificates from the officers of Our Customs, of the several Ports of this Our Kingdom of Great Britain.

17<sup>th</sup>.

“You shall, by the best means you can, prevent a general abuse We hear hath been committed in



that Our Kingdom, by the unlawful making, coining, and vending, of small money for change, much to the loss and wrong of Our Subjects, and of ill consequence to the Government, if not remedied.

18<sup>th</sup>.

“And that you may be the better enabled to discharge the great trust We have reposed in you, by committing the Administration of that Our Kingdom to you, We do declare,

“That We will not admit of any particular complaint of injustice, or oppression against any, in Our said Kingdom, unless it appear that the party have first made his address to you.

“That the places in the Chief Governor’s gift shall be left freely to your disposal, and accordingly We will not pass them to any person, upon suit made to us here.

“That no new Offices shall be erected in that Our Kingdom, till you have been made acquainted therewith, and certified your opinion upon the matter to Us.

“That no letters or orders from hence for the payment of any money shall be directed immediately to the receiver of that Our Kingdom, but to you, and no payment made upon any such letters or orders from hence, without your warrant thereupon, shall be allowed upon the Receiver General’s Accounts.



“That no Patent for granting land, money, or the releasing or abating of any rents in Our said Kingdom shall be passed here, without you have first been made acquainted therewith; which rule We have directed to be entered in Our Signet Office, and other Offices here that may be concerned therein.

19<sup>th</sup>.

“And We do also leave it wholly to you, to give licence of absence out of Our said Kingdom, to any Councillor, Bishop, Governor or other Officer of State, or of the Army, or to any of the Judges, or the learned Council.

20<sup>th</sup>.

“When any vacancy shall happen of any Ecclesiastical or Civil Office, or place which We have reserved to Our own disposal, and is excepted in your Commission, you shall forthwith advise Us thereof, and also recommend to Us, a fit person for the said place, and We do hereby declare that We will not dispose of any such vacancy, till we have received your recommendation, which if We shall not agree to, but think fit to confer the said vacant Office or place on any other person, We will not grant, or sign any letter for granting the same, till We shall know whether you have any objection to make to-it.

21<sup>st</sup>.

“You shall, from time to time, inform Us, truly and impartially, of every man’s particular diligence and care in Our service there, to the end We may bestow marks of Our favour upon such as do well. In order whereunto, Our express pleasure is, that you do not grant any confirmation of a reversion of any office or employment in that Our Kingdom, or suffer any new grant of a reversion to pass hereafter; and you are to take care that all vacant offices or places be granted only during Our pleasure. And, whereas We have resolved that, for the future, no place or employment, whether Civil or Military, shall be sold, you are not to permit the same accordingly: and if any such place or employment shall be bought, such person so buying it, shall immediately, upon the discovery of it, be discharged from such place or employment: and if any person shall receive or take any more money than the accustomed fees for such place or employment, such person shall be discharged from his place and employment, and be further prosecuted according to law.

22<sup>nd</sup>.

“You shall give no orders upon any letters signed by Us, for granting money, or lands, pensions, titles of honour, or employments in Ireland, unless such letters have been first entered at Our

Signet Office here, whereby the disorder in procuring Our grant of the same thing to several persons will be prevented.

23<sup>rd</sup>.

“You shall direct all propositions moving from you, touching matters of the revenue, to Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our realm for the time being, and all other despatches for that Our Kingdom, to one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and We do declare We will have it done by the hands of William Henry, Earl of Rochford.

24<sup>th</sup>.

“If any warrants, letters, orders, or directions shall hereafter come unto you, from Us, or from Our Privy Council, requiring the performance of anything contrary to Our directions in Our Establishment, or these instructions, We do hereby give you authority to forbear, if you think fit, the execution thereof, until you shall first give Us information of the reasons inducing you thereunto, and therefore receive Our directions therein, and further declaration of Our pleasure touching the same.

25<sup>th</sup>.

“There having been several proclamations issued, by which all papists there were required to bring

in their arms, to be delivered into Our stores, and deposited there for Our service ; you are to inform yourself what hath been done in pursuance of these proclamations, and to take care that the same be duly executed according to the intentions therein declared, so that no papist there, except such as are permitted by the capitulations granted to any town, or place, that surrendered itself, may be suffered to keep any arms or powder, without licence either from Us, or you, first had and obtained ; and you are to endeavour to prevent all abuses in misconstruing the extent of those capitulations, and to restrain as much as may be such concessions of keeping arms.

26<sup>th</sup>.

“ We think fit to recommend to you the settling the Militia, in all the Counties of Our said Kingdom, and you are accordingly to apply yourself with all diligence to the perfect establishment of the same, according to such rules, and in such manner as hath been hitherto observed, as far as shall be consistent with the present posture of affairs, the good of Our service, and the laws of that Kingdom.

27<sup>th</sup>.

“ You shall not give directions for the reversing any outlawries ; but upon application to you in the behalf of any persons, whose circumstances

may deserve Our commiseration or clemency, you are to represent their respective cases to Us, and expect Our pleasure therein.

28<sup>th</sup>.

“You are to take care, that the articles formerly granted to Galway, Limerick, or to any other place, upon their surrender to the late King William, of glorious memory, be construed according to the strict meaning and intention of them, upon all questions and doubts which may arise, without allowing any favour to the persons comprehended in them, or extending them further than in honour and justice We are obliged to do.

29<sup>th</sup>.

“Whereas by Our Commission, you are empowered to call a Parliament in that Our Kingdom, you are, nevertheless, hereby directed and required not to summon a Parliament, without Our particular direction.

“G. R.”

## Letter from Col. Blaquiere.

FROM Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“ Leicester House, Oct. 24th, 1772.*

“MY LORD,— . . . I dined with my Lord North at Kines on Thursday, where there was the most cordial enquiries after you. Most people have it that the ribbon will not be disposed of till Lord Chesterfield’s death, which is hourly expected, makes another vacancy, in order that Lord Harcourt and Lord Holderness may have it together. When Fitzroy kissed hands for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoons, General Conway stood by him ; the King asked the latter if he would not step forward also, Mr. Conway diffidently asked for what ? the King replied the Government of Jersey. The General acquiesced, and, kneeling, kissed hands. Also General Amherst has the Lord Generalcy of the ordnance. This is to shew Mr. Conway that there are officers, tho’ my Lord Townshend’s superiors, that are not above serving in this situation under him ; which I suppose he will not care two pence for.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I purpose kissing hands on Wednesday or Thursday, & hope to be able to pay my respects

to my L<sup>d</sup>. Vernon's family on the 1<sup>st</sup>, in order  
to accompany your Lordship the day following.  
May I beg leave to trouble you with my respects.

"I am ever, my Lord,

"Your devoted, humble, & obliged serv<sup>t</sup>,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

## Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*Nov. 7th, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—The two king’s letters for the revenue boards, after many references and consultations, many mistakes and corrections, many copyings and recopyings, are at length finished, and were yesterday signed by his Majesty. They will be sent away to Ireland this evening with some other papers, and will, I flatter myself, arrive time enough to have the great seal affixed to them before your Lordship takes possession of the Government.

“In obedience to your Lordship’s commands I explained to his Majesty the cause of your delay, tho’ indeed he did not require any explanation, being too well acquainted with your Lordship’s zeal for his service to suppose that it could proceed from any tardiness on your part. As I shall probably have no opportunity of writing to your Lordship again before your departure, I beg leave to mention once more to your Lordship my friend and relation Captain Hamilton. If your Lordship should ever make a supernumary aide-de-camp, he will receive that mark of your favour with the utmost gratitude. His connection with the family



of the Archbishop of Dublin enabling him to live in Dublin without any expense. Notwithstanding your Lordship's kind expressions with respect to Dean Hawkins, I have not ventured as yet to give him hopes of the second Bishoprick. Your Lordship's permission to do so will put it in my power to render him & his friends extremely happy. I have nothing to add but my hearty and sincere wishes for your Lordship's success and happiness in your Government, and the assurance of my readiness to contribute to them by every means in my power.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*"Nov. 30th, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—I hope that I may now congratulate your Excellency upon your being safely arrived in Ireland, and having enter'd upon your Government. Zealously interested as I feel myself in your Excellency's prosperity, I cannot form a better wish for you than that you may be as well pleased with your new situation as his Majesty, his Majesty's subjects in Ireland, and his servants in Great Britain will certainly be with your Excellency's administration.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I was in hopes that I should not have had any

occasion to trouble your Excellency further upon the subject of the Boards of Revenue in Ireland, but a mistake which was made on this side of the water by the clerk who was employed to copy the King's letter, and overlooked by the persons who revised it, will oblige me to send over a new King's letter, and to ask your Excellency to direct the Great Seal to be affixed to new letters patent.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Our session here has begun very quietly. The address of the House of Commons passed without the least opposition ; and we were, with very little difficulty, permitted to appoint a secret committee to enquire into the present situation of the East India affairs. The policy of our adversaries is to lay by till we come to some decisive measure, and then our calm weather is to cease, and the session is to conclude in bustle and storms. The address of the House of Lords went as easily and as unanimously as ours. I have the Honour to be with

"the greatest respect, &c."

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of  
Rochford :—

*" Dec. 2nd, 1772.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I embarked at Holyhead on Sunday morning at about 2 o'clock, and arrived here at about 3 o'clock next morning. I determined, after the fatigue and danger of the voyage, to come directly to the Castle, without waiting for the ceremonies of a public entry, which could not well have been avoided if I had arrived at a later hour. My time has hitherto been so much taken up in Levees and in receiving addresses, that any account of the state of affairs in this kingdom from me would be very unsatisfactory and imperfect. Was I to form any conjectures from the general appearance of things, I might flatter myself more than I ought to do, for I know very well there is no great reliance on those appearances.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I shall avail myself as much as possible of the very kind information and of the many friendly hints which Lord Townshend's long experience in this country has enabled him to give me, and I shall esteem myself extremely happy if I can

employ them for the advancement of His Majesty's service in this kingdom. The mail is just arrived with His Majesty's most gracious speech, which I have but just had time to read, as the Packet is likely to go off directly.

"I am with greatest respect, &c.

"P.S. The yacht is ordered for Lord Townshend, who I believe intends to leave Dublin on Friday evening."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*"Dec. 8th, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—Contrary winds having detained Lord Townshend longer than expected, he did not embark till this morning. I waited upon him to the water-side; a squadron of horse attended us; the streets were lined with troops; and the greatest attention was paid to his Lordship; who had the satisfaction to leave this country with every mark of regard and civility the people could shew him. I own I was a little anxious to see the ceremony well over, as it leaves me more at liberty to attend to the duties of my station. When I wrote last to your Lordship I could only say that appearances were favourable. I have since had a very complaisant message from the Duke of Leicester; which I might have considered merely as a compliment to a new Lord-

Lieutenant, if the Marquis of Kildare had not attended the two first Levees, and afterwards desired leave to pay his respects to me at the play, where he stood by me the greatest part of the time.

“I have received a very polite letter from Lord Shannon, expressive of his good wishes to see his Majesty’s government firmly supported, and my administration made easy and honourable; from which I should hope that such marks of favour as his Majesty may think fit hereafter to confer on his Lordship, may determine him to support the government. I saw Mr. Ponsonby to-day, who attended the Protestant dissenters when they came up with their address. He made an apology for not coming sooner, which he said was owing to his having mistaken the Levee days; but I am inclined to believe that the advances made by Lord Shannon towards the government may have determined Mr. Ponsonby to take a step which is of some consequence to him, as well as to those who are connected with him.

“As I had some reason to think that Mr. Flood would come to the Castle, I was not surprised to see him arrive there on Sunday last. He told me that he came to town on purpose to wait on me I shall do what I can to improve every favourable circumstance that the times may offer, or that chance may throw in my way. I shall give the

greatest attention to everything that passes, but I must endeavour to avoid the appearance of being over eager and anxious in closing with those who may seem well disposed to make their peace with government. I apprehend their terms will be more or less unreasonable, in proportion to their ideas of their own importance.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.”

## Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“ December 17th, 1772.*

“ MY LORD,—Viscount Townshend having lately recommended Lieutenant Parker, of the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment of foot, to be quarter master of that regiment, the king has thought proper to suspend the commission, till it should be explained whether it was unattended with purchase. I have since received two certificates to prove that no consideration whatsoever is to be paid for the said commission. His Majesty, however, has been pleased to suspend it still further, and to defer the nomination, until you shall be apprized of all the circumstances relative thereto ; that the application may afterwards come from your Excellency in the regular manner. Sir Eyre Coote represents that, as colonel, he has a right to recommend the quarter master of his own regiment ; and, in consequence, recommends his relation Lieutenant Coote. I have desired Sir Eyre to make his application to your Excellency. There will then be transmitted to me, in the proper manner, the name



of the person your Excellency shall think fit to recommend.

“I am, &c.”

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“*December 17th, 1772.*”

“MY LORD,—I enclose to your Excellency a copy of a letter I have received from Lord Bellamont ; in which he requests to have leave to retire from his Majesty’s service ; and to resign his employment of deputy quarter master general of Ireland to Mr. Ch. Eustace, who was captain in the late 124<sup>th</sup> regiment, and is now captain, on half pay, on the Irish Establishment. I laid before the king the said letter ; his Majesty has been pleased to grant his Lordship’s request of retiring from his service ; and to accept his resignation of deputy quarter master general. In regard to a successor to that employment, however, his Majesty has thought proper to suspend any nomination, in order that every application of that nature should come in the regular and usual channel from your Excellency. In consequence thereof, I have signified to Lord Bellamont his Majesty’s pleasure, as your Excellency will observe by the enclosed copy of my answer to his Lordship. It will always be a particular satisfaction to me to convey to your Excellency such gracious marks



of the king's care and regard to those parts of your administration in Ireland, as more particularly relate to my own department<sup>a</sup>.

“I am with the greatest truth and respect, &c.”

<sup>a</sup> Lord Rochford was the principal Secretary of State, and would at the present day have been called Home Secretary.

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of  
Rochford :—

*“ December 26th, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant; enclosing copies of the letters which have passed between your Lordship and the Earl of Bellamont, relative to his Lordship's resigning his employment of deputy quarter master general of this Kingdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I request that your Lordship will lay before his Majesty my most humble acknowledgments for his gracious attention to the dignity of the station of his Lieutenant of this Kingdom, in postponing the further consideration of that matter until I should have an opportunity of submitting it officially to his Majesty. For this purpose, I must request the favour of your Lordship to inform me whether Lord Bellamont is or is not to sell his Commission, and at what price? I have not received any memorial from his Lordship, as usual on such occasions, in which memorial his intentions and the terms of his resignation should be stated at large, to remain in my chief

secretary's office. Therefore, as at present instructed, I am a very incompetent judge of the propriety of the succession that is proposed. I must apprise your Lordship, that, if it be any part of his Lordship's arrangement for Captain Eustace, in whose favour his Lordship desires to resign, to sell his half pay, I shall, by no means, consent to lay before his Majesty a proposition which I have understood to be so perfectly contradictory to his regulations.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*"December 20th, 1772.*

"MY LORD,— Soon after my arrival in this Kingdom I received a very polite letter from Lord Shannon expressive of his good wishes towards his Majesty's Government, and the ease and honor of my administration. His Lordship, some few days afterwards, came to Town, and attended my levee. In a very long conversation with me he renewed the propositions which, he informed me, he had, some months ago, laid before Lord Townshend, and which Lord Townshend had transmitted to England. The following is an exact copy of the memoranda, which, at Lord Shannon's desire, I beg leave to forward to your Lordship for his Majesty's consideration.

"1. St. Leger of Doneraile, nephew of the late Lord Doneraile, and who inherits all the estates of Doneraile, with their appurtenances, to be created Baron of Doneraile.

"2. Denham Jephson of Mallow, Esq<sup>r</sup>., to have a pension of £600 a year.

"3. Nicholas Lysaght, a gentleman of good property, who, during the last war, served in America; was at Quebec with Mr. Wolfe; taken prisoner with Mr. Murray; who purchased every rank he attained to in the army; and whose services are all well known to Lord Townshend, under whom he served; to be governor of Cork, with the rank of major.

"4. James Dennis, Esq<sup>r</sup>., his Majesty's second Serjeant at Law, to have the office of Prime Serjeant, Attorney General, or Solicitor General, whichever shall first become vacant.

"5. Richard Townshend, Esq<sup>r</sup>., Knight of the Shire for the County of Cork, to have the first commissioner's place which shall become vacant.

"6. The present Dean of Cork to be Bishop of Cork on the first opportunity.

"Before I submit any opinion of my own upon the above propositions, I must inform your Lordship that Lord Shannon, throughout the whole of his conversation with me, was extremely candid and explicit; he declared, in the warmest and fullest terms, the part he meant to take in support

of his Majesty's measures during the next session of Parliament, and his determination to exert his utmost influence in support of Government; trusting to his Majesty's goodness that his friends should be considered as opportunities might happen.

"With respect to the title of Doneraile, I am informed that, in the beginning of Lord Townshend's administration in this country, the late Mr. John St. Leger, son of a judge of that name, a member of this house of Commons, and possessed of great property in the county of Kildare, and who supported Government very steadily (even in opposition to the Duke of Leinster, who brought him into Parliament), made application to his Lordship for this title. He set forth his pretensions thereto in a very long memorial, which was transmitted to Lord Shelburne, at that time Secretary of State, to be laid before his Majesty. At the same time another memorial came in from the gentleman now in question; who claimed the title as grandson to the first Lord Doneraile; whereas Mr. John St. Leger derived only from a collateral branch. It does not appear that his Majesty's pleasure hath been signified upon either of these memorials. Mr. John St. Leger has since died, and he left two or three sons. The widow, as I am told, wrote to Lord Townshend, in the course of last summer, and signified to his Lord-

ship that, as she found there was a competition for the title of Doneraile, she should be ready to waive the claim of her children to it, provided she might be created a Peeress with some other title. This his Lordship positively refused to recommend, thinking, as I am informed, that, if the family had any legal claim to the title of Doneraile, the son, as representative of the family, and not Mr<sup>s</sup>. St. Leger, was entitled to the favour and protection of the crown. His Majesty will judge how far Mr. John St. Leger's pretensions and services stand in the way of Lord Shannon's present application. His Lordship, however, appears to me to have the success of it much at heart; and as this gentleman enjoys all the estates held by the late Lord Doneraile, his uncle, and is unexceptionable in point of family, circumstances, and character, I should humbly recommend that his Lordship may be gratified therein.

"I must, at the same time, observe to your Lordship, that, being aware of his Majesty's unwillingness to extend the peerage of this Kingdom, I engaged myself no further than to state this matter for his Majesty's consideration. If his Majesty should be graciously pleased to condescend to what is desired by his Lordship, I beg it may be understood that I by no means wish this honour should be conferred immediately. I feel sure that it will be sufficiently satisfactory to

Lord Shannon if his Majesty shall authorize me to acquaint him that, whenever any addition is made to the peerage of this Kingdom, his Lordship's application in Mr. St. Leger's favour will meet with due attention.

"With respect to Mr. Jephson's pension, Lord Shannon told me that that gentleman has two seats in parliament entirely in his own power, and expressed himself with great earnestness in his favour. I told his Lordship very candidly that I thought £400 a year ought to satisfy Mr. Jephson; and that I was apprehensive that, loaded as the establishments now are, his Majesty would not readily consent to grant a larger sum; and that I could only take upon me to state the proposition to his Majesty for his Royal consideration. Lord Shannon urged that he had committed himself so strongly with Mr. Jephson, who had been one of his most faithful adherents, that it was become a point of the utmost consequence to his credit to obtain this mark of favour for him to the amount proposed. I am satisfied, from the anxiety with which he spoke upon this occasion, that it would gratify him in the most particular manner, and I must not conceal from your Lordship that Lord Shannon declared to me very freely that he could not prevail upon Mr. Jephson to accept of a less sum.

"Mr. Lysaght's military services I am an entire



stranger to. His object is the lieutenant governorship of Cork, and Lord Shannon only desires that he may be gratified therein upon the death, removal, or promotion, of Colonel Hull the present lieutenant governor. His Lordship is satisfied as to the impropriety of the request for the brevet rank of major. That part of the proposition, his Lordship assured me, originated with the Attorney General, and was proposed by him to Lord Townshend, without his authority or any communication with him upon that point.

“I have heard from many people an exceeding good character of Mr. Serjeant Dennis, and that he has very great merit in his profession. I cannot, for my own part, see any objection to his succeeding to the office of Attorney General, in case of the death or removal of Mr. Tisdell; provided Mr. Prime Serjeant, who, from his great abilities in Parliament, will expect to be considered, should not desire to fill that employment himself; if he does so, and if government should be inclined to confer the office upon him, Lord Shannon will be satisfied if his friend, Mr. Dennis, be moved to Mr. Hutchinson’s office of Prime Serjeant.

“With regard to the fifth proposition, relative to Mr. Townshend, his Lordship’s object for that gentleman is already submitted and is now depending before his Majesty.



“With respect to the sixth proposition, viz<sup>t</sup>., the appointment of the present Dean of Cork to be Bishop of that See, I told his Lordship that any encouragement I could give him to hope for that mark of favour was very distant; but that his Lordship might depend upon my recommendation of that gentleman to his Majesty’s favour, as soon as it was in my power to do it with propriety and consistently.

“These, my Lord, are Lord Shannon’s particular points; I believe your Lordship will find them to correspond exactly with those which have already been laid before you in Lord Townshend’s dispatches. His Lordship’s influence in this country was much better known to Lord Townshend than it possibly can be to me, but I have no reason to doubt of its being very powerful. I, therefore, take the liberty of advising that this opportunity of bringing back his Lordship and his connections, and of securing them for the future to the service of the crown, should not, on any account, be neglected.

“I must, therefore, request that your Lordship will be pleased to lay this transaction before his Majesty, and that you will signify to me his Majesty’s directions for my conduct upon the several points above submitted.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*“ December 31st, 1772.*

“ MY LORD,— . . . I am informed that upon the late appointment of quarter masters to the several regiments of foot, Lord Townshend, to oblige some of the colonels, accepted of their recommendations.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ His general rule, however, was to dispose of such appointments in a manner which, according to his judgment, would best conduce to answer the different ends of his Majesty's Service. When your Lordship considers the difficulties which this government lies under, of finding means to oblige the different interests here, and how necessary it is, upon all applications, to preserve its weight and dignity, I am persuaded you will think that Lord Townshend could not, with any degree of propriety, have waived the right in question.

“ In consequence of your Lordship's answer to Sir Eyre Coote, he has enclosed to me a memorial, representing that Lieutenant Nicholas Parker has been recommended for the quarter master's commission, instead of Lieutenant Eyre Coote, whom he intended for the succession ; and, therefore, praying that I should recommend Lieutenant Eyre Coote to be quarter master in the room of Captain Parker. As I have a great regard for

Sir Eyre Coote, I should most willingly comply with this request, if it were practicable ; but as it appears to me that Lord Townshend has been perfectly regular in the course of his proceeding, I would, by no means, recommend any other name than that of the gentleman which his Lordship transmitted for this succession.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ December 31st, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—I am this moment honored by your Excellency's two letters of the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month ; and beg leave to trouble you with as full an answer to them as I am able to give before I have seen the king.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I delayed the King's letter appointing the new commission of excise for some days, that I might have an opportunity of conversing with Lord Townshend upon it, and of learning from him whether the alteration proposed was perfectly agreeable to your Excellency. The moment that I was satisfied on that point, I carried the letter to the King for his signature, and I imagine that it is, by this time, pretty forward on its way to Dublin.

“The appointment of M<sup>r</sup>. Townshend, in the room of Sir William Osborne, will, I hope, be considered by Lord Shannon as a mark of the favorable disposition of government towards him ; and will incline him to wait with patience for the

accomplishment of such other of his desires as cannot now be immediately complied with.

“The list of Lord Shannon’s propositions in your Excellency’s letters agrees, to the best of my recollection, with that which I received some time ago from Lord Townshend. There was afterwards, when Lord Belvidere’s death was expected, mention made of the office of Muster Master General for Lord Shannon himself, and the King authorised me to permit Lord Townshend to offer the place to him; but it was then supposed that his Lordship, upon the receipt of so great a mark of favor, would have been less pressing in some of his other requests. The proposition in the list which seems to me liable to the least difficulty, is his Lordship’s request in favor of Mr. Sergeant Dennis. I have no doubt but his Majesty will leave the determination of that point entirely to your Excellency; who, by being on the spot, will be best able to judge of Mr. Dennis’s character, abilities, and rank at the bar, and how far his promotion will be approved in Ireland. I take it for granted that he can have no expectations of being put over the head of Mr. Hutchinson, if the latter should chuse to succeed Mr. Tisdall upon a vacancy. Whether the Solicitor-General would have any claims against Mr. Dennis, in case of a vacancy of either of the two superior law offices, and whether his claims

may merit any attention, must be best known to your Excellency; to whose decision this matter will be referred. In the mean while, I think I may assure you that you may venture to give your answer to Lord Shannon on this proposition as soon as you think proper, and in the manner that you shall think most expedient.

"The pension required by Mr. Jephson is a matter of more nicety. Nothing is more dangerous than raising the amount of salaries and pensions; and your Excellency knows that such a step will be peculiarly inconvenient in the present encumbered state of the Civil Establishment of Ireland. If your Excellency cannot beat down the rate of this pension below £600 a year, perhaps it may be possible to persuade Mr. Jephson to wait, till the establishment is relieved by the determination of some other pensions to the amount of this.

"Your Excellency has removed a most insurmountable obstacle, by persuading Lord Shannon to withdraw his request of a majority for Mr. Ly-saght. The King would never have consented to it. Whether his Majesty will give him any hopes of the Lieutenant Government of Cork I will not pretend to say, as it is a military business; but I will certainly moot it to the King, and do what I can to promote your Excellency's wishes.

"The only objection to Mr. St. Leger's appli-

cation is the general objection to new Irish Peerages, which I had the honor of explaining fully to your Excellency when I saw you in Downing-street. The utmost that can be done for Mr. St. Leger will be to put him upon the list of those who are to be included in the first creation, without giving him any intimation of the time when such a creation may take place. But even this is more than I can venture to say that his Majesty will consent to; and I must, in this case, answer your Excellency as you did Lord Shannon, that I can only undertake to submit it to his Majesty's consideration.

"The nomination to Bishopricks belongs so entirely to your Excellency, that your answer to Lord Shannon concerning the Dean of Cork must be considered as a final decision to that point, and I collect from your letter that Lord Shannon acquiesced in it.

"I shall have the honor of laying your Excellency's letter to-morrow before the King, and as soon as I receive his Majesty's commands will not fail to transmit them to your Excellency.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*"March 29th, 1773.*

"MY LORD,—I avail myself of the return of Mr. Waller to Ireland to write to your Excellency



upon the matters contained in your former letters to me.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The state of your revenue in Ireland appears, by the letter I lately received from your Excellency, to be very melancholy indeed ; which is the more to be lamented, as a flourishing state of the hereditary revenue in Ireland is the most certain support of the authority, tranquillity, and credit, of British government in that Kingdom. It is impossible that the King’s business can be carried on much longer without either a considerable diminution of expense, or increase of income, or both. Your Excellency may depend upon it that I will not trouble you with any burthens from hence that can possibly be avoided. Your predecessor, I believe, does me justice on that head, and you will have no reason to complain of me. I must, however, in the greatest confidence, apprise you of a new charge, and a heavy one, which is soon likely to fall upon your pension list. The Queen of Denmark is, in her present situation, so straitened in point of circumstances, that the King has signified to me that he intends to place her upon the Irish Establishment, and to allow her a pension of £3,000 a year. I will not, however, order the King’s letter until I have heard from your Excellency upon the subject ; and I will keep faithfully secret any thing which



you may think proper to write to me upon this occasion. In the mean while I will maturely consider this intended pension, which appears to me liable to other objections, as well as that great and principal one, the encumbered state of the Irish revenue.

"I submit to your Excellency whether, if you should be obliged to postpone a part of the pensions, you would not think it right to put Prince Ferdinand's two pensions upon the same list with those which are payable to the Royal family. The present delay of payment has reduced him already to such difficulties as he ought not to suffer after his eminent services to this country, and the very brilliant figure he made during the last war.

"It might perhaps be very useful to the revenue, as well as conducive to your Excellency's own ease and comfort, if you were to let it be understood that you are determined not to increase the present charge upon the civil and military lists in Ireland. The late increase of pensions and places may render it not only possible but even not difficult to adhere to such a rule.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ April 11th, 1773.*

“ MY LORD,—I have not yet seen your Excellency’s official letter concerning the intended port of Lough Swilley, but suppose that it is already at the treasury ; and that the reason of my not having yet seen it must be the illness of one of the secretaries, and the absence of the other, who is gone to spend a few days in the country during the Easter recess. I own I am surprised that I have not yet received any application against establishing this new port. When the same matter was under consideration during the government of your Excellency’s predecessor, the strongest remonstrances were made against it, both from the provost of Dublin College, and from the City of London, who are proprietors of a very considerable estate in the neighbourhood of Londonderry. By the silence of these parties on the present occasion, I conclude, either that this plan differs from the former, or that those who objected to the measure last year are better reconciled to it now.

“ I ought, however, to mention to your Excellency, that I have a faint remembrance of a report of the commissioners of the customs in Ireland, which was not favorable to a new port at Lough Swilley ; representing it as likely to increase smug-

gling, and to cause a useless addition to the expense of the customs. Whether such a report exists or not I cannot positively say, but I will send to town early to-morrow morning, and direct a thorough search to be made for every paper which can relate to the matter in question; and, if nothing very material appears against the proposed establishment, the King's letter shall be expedited in the course of this week. I see in so strong a light the importance of supporting your Excellency against the cabal which has discovered itself in the privy council, that the objection must be very weighty which will prevent my giving your Excellency every possible assistance in the execution of your plan.

"Mr. Montgomery, the new secretary to the board of excise in Ireland, waited some days in London, in expectation of receiving from me a letter to your Excellency. It was a time of hurry, and the letter was forgot. The fault was entirely upon myself, and I hope that neither his delay nor the want of a letter of recommendation from me may be of any prejudice to him. I wish him extremely well, and earnestly recommend him to your Excellency's protection. Altho' I should have been glad to have served him as a near relation to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, yet I assure your Excellency that my reason for preferring him to his present office was the excellent

character I heard of him in point of abilities, knowledge, and integrity.

“I am, &c.

“P.S. Your Excellency will excuse my adding a postscript in behalf of my cousin, Captain Hamilton. Your Excellency’s kindness to him on any occasion will be most gratefully felt by your humble servant.

“N.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“PRIVATE.

*“April 24th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—I received the honor of your Lordship’s letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> past, by M<sup>r</sup>. Waller, and thank your Lordship for the very clear and explicit manner in which you have signified to me his Majesty’s pleasure concerning the arrangements for Lord Shannon’s friends, to which I shall strictly adhere.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Your Lordship will find, by the enclosed letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Clements, that Prince Ferdinand’s pension will be immediately paid up to the same period with those of the Royal family. M<sup>r</sup>. Clements assured me he would make the remittance this day, and I have given orders that, for the future, it shall be regularly paid with them.

“Your Lordship will have seen, by the papers that I have already sent you, the deplorable state of this kingdom ; and it is with great concern that I must add that, since then, our distresses have increased to such a degree that almost an entire

stop is put to all payments whatever, except for the subsistence of the army ; and, at times, it has been difficult to find money even for this purpose. I have now reason to think that the arrear upon the establishment, by Christmas next, will not fall short of £300,000. Your Lordship will, therefore, judge how ill any additional charge upon them would be received at this time.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I shall, therefore, most earnestly request, that the pension which your Lordship mentions as thought of for the Queen of Denmark may at least be postponed until after the next session of parliament ; when, if that measure shall be determined upon, I trust his Majesty’s revenues in this country may be better able to bear it. I have, at this time, in my contemplation, though not yet ripe enough to be submitted to your Lordship, several great and important matters which, I hope, will put his Majesty’s revenues and government of this kingdom upon a better footing ; for, as your Lordship very justly observes, in our present situation it is impossible for government to go on. When I shall have got the information which I have called for from the different public offices here, and which I may expect to receive by the end of next month, it is my intention to send over Colonel Blaquiére to lay the whole plan before your Lordship, and to satisfy you as to any par-

ticulars which it would be too tedious and troublesome to your Lordship to commit to paper.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“PRIVATE.

“*October 3rd, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger by whom your Lordship will receive this letter carries my official dispatch to the lords of the treasury for the re-uniting the boards of revenue in this kingdom, in the manner that was settled by your Lordship with Colonel Blaquiere. It has been delayed till this time that I might have an opportunity of consulting with the most confidential friends I have in this country. I find them unanimous in opinion, that it will be advisable, in order to make the most of this measure, which now seems to be received as a great grace and favour from the crown, that the composition of the new board shall be taken only from the present existing members; leaving it to some future day to make such a reform amongst them as might meet with your Lordship's approbation. It is upon this principle that Sir Francis Bernard, Mr. Bourke, and Mr. Staples, are now continued members of the board; and, as soon as the Par-



liament rises, it is my intention, in the room of Sir Francis Bernard, to bring in Mr. Langrishe, in order to make a vacancy at the barrack board for Colonel Burton. Mr. Staples may, at the same time, be removed to make way for young Mr. Ponsonby, or for any friend of the Duke of Leinster's ; and Mr. Bourke remains at any time to be superannuated in case your Lordship should determine to appoint the English Commissioner you named to Colonel Blaquiere. It cannot fail striking your Lordship that this arrangement is made at an expense considerably less than the sum which was stated to you in London, and of which you approved.

"It may be necessary to apprise your Lordship that a tender of a seat at the board was made, by my direction, to Lord Lanesborough, Mr. Ponsonby, and the Duke of Leinster. It is with satisfaction I shall acknowledge to your Lordship, that I found they all declined their acceptance at this moment, though for different reasons. It has given me an opportunity of treating upon conciliating terms with these Gentlemen. Mr. Ponsonby, in particular, told Colonel Blaquiere that a seat at the board for his son, even in its present circumscribed state, was, in his eye, the most honourable distinction in the country, and an offer of it to him what he esteemed as a very particular favour. He went so far as to say that, if it had



been in his power, he would gladly have accepted of it, but that, situated as he then stood, he would, perhaps, be able to serve Government more effectually, and better to show the sense he had of the favour intended him. Lord Lanesborough does not chuse to belong to the board, divested as it is to remain of all its power and patronage. He means, however, as far as his interest goes, to support his Majesty's Government; and, although the Duke of Leinster does not chuse that any of his friends should, at this moment, accept any favours, yet am I not without hopes that his Grace may be inclined to give his support to some of the great objects we have in contemplation.

"The resistance which Mr. Hamilton made to the terms that were proposed to him at Worcester, and the exorbitancy of his demands, even to such a degree as makes it impossible for me to think of treating any more with him, will be a sore distress to my administration. I fear I am not to expect the assistance of Mr. Flood, although I can scarcely think he will be very violent in his opposition, now that he knows what was intended to be offered him.

"The Prime Serjeant is not yet returned from circuit. Mr. Malone and the Attorney General appear to be perfectly satisfied with the measures which have been adopted, and are disposed to assist in every point. With respect to the Speaker,

I fear I must expect that he will resist the scheme for limiting and restraining the bounty on corn, however well he may be disposed in other matters.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“PRIVATE.

“*October 21st, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—In the letter which I lately transmitted to your Lordship for re-uniting the boards of revenue, you will have observed that Mr. Richard Townshend is amongst the number of those who are to be dismissed and pensioned ; which I recommended, having learned, as I had reason to think, from the best authority, that it would be highly agreeable both to him and Lord Shannon. Nor was it without the utmost surprize that I found, this day, upon talking confidentially with Lord Shannon, that the very contrary was his desire ; and that a pension to Mr. Townshend, in this particular instance, would reflect, he feared, upon him and all his friends the reproach and derision of the public.

“Lord Shannon is a man of such high consideration in this country, and the support which he has already given appears to me so decisive on the fate of the King’s affairs, that I cannot hesitate a moment about the part that is to be taken.

I must, therefore, after begging your Lordship a thousand pardons for giving you this increase of trouble, earnestly request that you will move his Majesty to appoint Mr. Richard Townshend to be a commissioner of the re-united board in the room of Mr. Robert Waller, and that Mr. Robert Waller may be amongst the number of those whom I recommended to be pensioned at £600 a year.

“In case your Lordship should have been prevented from expediting his Majesty’s letters in this behalf, I apprehend that a simple erasure in his Majesty’s presence may suffice ; but, lest these two letters should have been dispatched from the Treasury, I enclose, herewith, the necessary draft of a letter for his Majesty’s signing, in order that no time may be lost ; and you will give me leave to press for its dispatch, with all possible speed, by the messenger whom I have sent to wait for it.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“ PRIVATE AND SECRET.

“ *October 22nd, 1773.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I have been out of town these three weeks, which is the reason I have not sooner answered all your letters, but, as the Perroquet said, *Je né nai pas moins pensé*. As to your ‘private’ of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lord North was in town and has been so ever since, I could not, therefore, undertake any treasury business. As to your other letter about my dear friend Blaquiere, I have put his affair in every shape, and do not despair. I write this in a great hurry, but cannot omit telling you in the utmost confidence that all the Lords and gentlemen in opposition here are determined to go every length to mar, if possible, the absentee tax ; and (but I say this in the utmost confidence) government will not support it unless the other points relative to the corn bounties and the revenue are part of the condition.

“ I find there are great doubts about the possibility of collecting the tax ; any satisfactory information you can give me about that I will make

a good use of, for, believe me, I have much at heart the prosperity of your administration. I profess myself your Excellency's and Blaquiere's friend, and I don't contract this debt with many. Stick to what Blaquiere fixed upon here with Lord North, and we shall go thro' it. Consider this letter, my dear Lord, as written in a hurry, but containing *multum in parvo*. I have not time to write to Blaquiere by this post, but very soon he shall hear from me. Your speech was much approved of, and, I think, with great reason.

“Believe me ever with the truest

“Esteem and Respect, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*“ October 27th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—. . . The house met yesterday, as usual, and your Lordship will see, by the minutes, the business that was brought before them. An amendment to the address, of the following words, ‘So far as there are materials for that purpose,’ was proposed by administration, which brought on a long debate, and which was, at length, carried by 88 against 52.

“I am persuaded that your Lordship will do me the justice to think that I cannot have been idle during this recess; and that my best endeavours have been exerted to dispose the minds of gentlemen towards the honorable support of his Majesty’s Government. Nor have I, as yet, any reason to think, from the state of the numbers upon yesterday’s division, that these pains have been thrown away. Doubtless some persons, from whom I had reason to expect support, voted against me; yet, on the other hand, there were, of the most respectable men in this Kingdom, some who took a warm and active part for administration; which, upon the whole, authorises

me to hold out to your Lordship, I think, what may be called a tolerable expectation of success ; though no man alive who knows this country will venture to foretell for an hour what may possibly happen in it.

“Lord Shannon’s friends were distinguished amongst the foremost of those who took part with administration.

“Your Lordship may depend on having immediate information of every thing of importance that may possibly arise ; but I imagine you would scarcely wish, nor indeed would there be a possibility of entering into, a minute detail of the daily occurrences and of every thing that happens, in a country where business in the House of Commons is commonly introduced by surprise, and, of course, necessarily conducted in the most irregular and unmethodical manner.

“I am, &c.”



## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 29th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—The King’s letters for re-uniting the boards of revenue, and pensioning the dismissed members, were signed, and upon the point of departing for Ireland, when I received your Excellency’s letter with the proposed alterations. His Majesty has, in consequence, signed two other letters, amended according to your Excellency’s desire; and, the messenger being to set out with them to-morrow, I think it right to take this opportunity of informing your Excellency of the effect which the expectation of the absentee tax has in this kingdom. I always apprehended that it would cause much uneasiness; but the uneasiness which it does cause has exceeded my apprehensions. The cry is universal against it. Friend and foe, those who have and those who have not estates in Ireland, join in condemning and abusing it. In short it is nearly as unpopular here as it is popular on your side of the water.

“I hear that Lord Shelburne and some others declare that a minister deserves to be impeached



who advises his Majesty to return the bill to Ireland. Lord Mansfield has told some of the cabinet, in confidence, that he thinks we are in a scrape out of which he would advise us to get as soon as possible; that the proposed tax upon the land of absentees is grounded upon a policy which has always been condemned in the privy council; that a similar act which was sent over some time ago by one of the colonies was rejected with indignation; and that if way is given to this measure we may expect proposals of the same nature from all our colonies, who will be very earnest to load with new impositions such of their countrymen as think proper to reside in Great Britain. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received upon the subject from five lords, with my answers. The answers were approved by four of the cabinet to whom they were read, and will, I hope, not be disapproved by your Excellency. My intention was to convey in a few words, as exactly as possible the substance and spirit of the message I sent to your Excellency by Mr. Blaquiere in the course of the summer.

“Notwithstanding all the clamour which is likely to be the consequence of this measure, your Excellency may depend upon me and upon the other three lords who assisted at the cabinet in August last, that we will abide by the promise

which was then made to your Excellency. But the parliament of Ireland, if they seriously wish to have the tax upon absentees confirmed by his Majesty, must consent to the other propositions which were recommended to your Excellency in the message by Mr. Blaquiere. Nothing less than their consent to the whole of your Excellency's plan can justify us in assenting to the absentee tax, or, indeed, enable us to stand the odium of so anti-British a measure. We must be able to say *'that we found Ireland £400,000 in debt, and running annually £126,000 in arrear; that a plan was sent over by the Irish Parliament which would, in all probability, provide for the debt of Ireland, and render the income of that kingdom, for the future, equal to her establishments; that the tax upon the land of absentees was so blended and connected with the rest of the plan, that, whatever we might think of the tax taken separately, we could not in the present case reject it without risking the whole; and losing an opportunity of rescuing Ireland from her present distressed situation.'*

"This must be the nature of our defence, and it will be, in my opinion, a sufficient justification. The gentlemen of Ireland must enable us to make it by adopting your Excellency's proposals. If they do not, it will be very difficult to return the bill; but, if they do, I, for one, shall be ready to meet all the noise and clamour on this side of the

water ; and hope to procure the return of the bill, notwithstanding the opposition it is threatened with in every stage, both before the attorney-general at the committee of council, and, by some persons, even at the Council itself in the presence of the King.

“I am sorry to learn by your Excellency’s letter that you apprehend that the Speaker will be against any regulation of the premium upon corn, as that is so essential a part of your plan. Indeed, without securing the hereditary revenue from being drained by the corn bounty, all the rest of the plan will be precarious ; as every addition which may accrue to the revenue by new taxes and other regulations may be swallowed up by that article alone. I do, therefore, most earnestly wish that the absentee tax may not be sent over unless the hereditary revenue is secured in this point ; as no plan can be said to offer effectual relief to the government of Ireland without it.

“The person whom I intended to nominate the British commissioner of revenue is Sir John Dick. As he is abroad I have not yet been able to learn whether such an appointment will be agreeable to him. It is almost impossible to find a gentleman of great fashion and capable of business who will reside constantly in Ireland, as I intend the British commissioner shall do. Sir John is, how-

ever, an exceedingly good man of business, and of an ancient family in Scotland; a Baronet of old date; and, from what I can learn, I believe a very valuable man in all respects. I hope that the other commissioners will not deem him insufficient in point of dignity, because he has been for some years past his Majesty's consul at Leghorn.

"I am sorry to find that the prejudice against Mr. Allan is so strong. His continuance would have saved his Majesty a pension, and he has also the advantage of being a member of the Irish House of Commons. Sir Francis Barnard has been promised his *quietus* some time ago, and will not be able to attend the board on account of his health. His name may be changed to that of Sir John Dick, and such other person as shall be appointed British Commissioner, whenever your Excellency shall think it right to make the further alterations that you intend in the board.

"While I am writing to your Excellency I have received intelligence that it is reported that many principal persons in Ireland have declared against the absentee tax, and that the patriots there will not move it. If that is the case I suppose we shall hear no more of it. The castle party, I take it for granted, will not propose it as *their* measure. It cannot, with propriety, originate with the servants of the Crown. Nothing in-

deed but the necessity of the case can justify them in adopting it.

“Perhaps it may be of some service to your Excellency to know the report made here by the provost of the sentiments of the King’s servants in Ireland. He says that your Excellency’s conduct in Ireland, your politeness and affability, have given universal satisfaction, and have created in the breasts of the people there the best disposition to his Majesty’s affairs ; but, he adds, that the friends of the castle complain that they are not informed of the measures to be pursued in Parliament, or who is to conduct them. I surprised Mr. K——y, who gave me this intelligence, by telling him that in the course of the summer I had seen the minutes of a large meeting of the King’s servants at the Castle of Dublin, wherein most of the measures were discussed which are now in agitation. Your Excellency, who knows the persons concerned, will be better able to guess what they mean by these complaints than I can ; on which account I imagined that you would excuse my troubling you with this notice.

“It is almost unnecessary to add that I wish that your Excellency would not communicate this letter, or the papers contained in it, to any person except Mr. Blaquiere. I am, &c.

“P.S. I am much obliged to your Excellency for the promotion of Lieutenant Howe.”

## Copy of Letter.

COPY of the Letter to Lord North from the five Lords referred to in the preceding.

“MY LORD,—It is publicly reported that a project has been communicated to the King’s ministers for proposing in the Parliament of Ireland a tax of regulation, which is particularly and exclusively to affect the property of those of his Majesty’s subjects who possess lands in that Kingdom, but whose ordinary residence is in this. It is, in the same manner, publicly understood, that this extraordinary design has been encouraged by an assurance from administration, that, if the heads of a bill proposing such a tax should be transmitted from Ireland, they would be returned with the sanction of his Majesty’s privy council here, under the great seal of England.

“My Lord, we find ourselves comprehended under the description of those who are to be the objects of this unprecedented imposition. We possess considerable landed property in both Kingdoms. Our ordinary residence is in England. We have not hitherto considered such residence as an act of delinquency to be punished, or as



a political evil to be corrected, by the penal operation of a partial tax.

“We have had, many of us, our births and our earliest habits in this Kingdom; some of us have an indispensable publick duty; and all of us, where such duty does not require such restriction, have the right of free subjects of choosing our habitation in whatever part of his Majesty’s dominions we shall esteem most convenient.

“We cannot hear without astonishment of a scheme, by which we are to be stigmatized, by what is in effect a fine, for our abode in this Country, the principal member of the British Empire, and the residence of our common Sovereign.

“We have ever shown the utmost readiness in contributing with the rest of our fellow subjects in any legal and equal method to the exigencies of the publick Service, and to the support of his Majesty’s Government.

“We have ever borne a cordial, tho’ not an exclusive, regard to the true interest of Ireland, and to all its rights and liberties; to none of which we think our residence in Great Britain to be in the least prejudicial; but rather the means, in very many cases, of affording them a timely and effectual support.

“We cannot avoid considering this scheme as in the highest degree injurious to the welfare of that Kingdom, as well as of this. Its manifest

tendency is to lessen the value of all landed property there ; to put restrictions upon it unknown in any part of the British Dominions, and, as far as we can find, without parallel in any civilized country. It leads directly to a separation of these Kingdoms in interest and affection ; contrary to the standing policy of our ancestors which has been at every period, and particularly at the glorious revolution, inseparably to connect them by every tie both of affection and interest.

“We apply to your Lordship in particular. This is intended as a mode of publick supply ; and, as we conceive that the Treasury of Ireland, as well as that of England, is in a great measure within your Lordship’s particular department, we flatter ourselves that we shall not be refused authentic information concerning a matter in which we are so nearly concerned ; that, if the scheme, which we state to your Lordship, doth exist, we may be enabled to pursue every legal method of opposition to a project in every light so unjust and impolitic.

“We have the honor to be, &c.,

“DEVONSHIRE.

“ROCKINGHAM.

“BESSBOROUGH.

“MILTON.

“UPPER OSSORY.

“*October 16th, 1773.*”



## Letters from Lord North.

LORD NORTH'S answer to the Duke of Devonshire :—

*“ October 18th, 1773.*

“ MY LORD,—I had yesterday the honor of receiving a letter signed by your Grace, and the Lords Rockingham, Bessborough, Milton, and Upper Ossory. As it does not relate particularly to me, but concerns equally others of his Majesty's servants, I cannot, with propriety, return any answer before I have communicated the contents of it to them, which I will take the first opportunity of doing. I am persuaded that your Grace and the other Lords will excuse this unavoidable delay, and have the honor to be, &c.,

“ NORTH.”

Lord North's second letter to his Grace of Devonshire :—

“ MY LORD,—Your Grace and the Lords Rockingham, Bessborough, Milton, and Upper Ossory, having, in your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup>, desired authentic information concerning a project of proposing to the Parliament of Ireland a tax upon the landed property of such persons whose ordinary residence

is out of that Kingdom, I will endeavour to state, in a few words, what has passed on that subject.

“In the course of the summer the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland sent over several propositions for restoring the credit, providing for the debts, and putting on a proper footing the finances of that Kingdom. He, at the same time, informed his Majesty’s servants here that he had reason to believe that, among other modes of supply, there would probably be proposed a tax of the nature mentioned in your Grace’s letter. The answer which was returned to his Excellency by those of his Majesty’s servants to whom this communication was made was to the following effect. That if the Irish Parliament should send over to England such a plan as should appear well calculated to give effectual relief to Ireland, in its present distress, their opinion would be that it ought to be carried into execution, altho’ the tax upon absentees should make a part of it. I beg leave to trouble your Grace to communicate this information to the other Lords, and have the honor to be, &c.”

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 30th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—I just recollect a passage in the letter I wrote to your Excellency last night which,

if not explained, may lead you into a mistake. It is where I assure your Excellency that you may depend upon me and the other three lords of the cabinet who assisted at the council in August last, that we will perform our promise. It was thro' excess of caution that I mentioned only three lords and myself, from whence your Excellency may be induced to believe that some of the cabinet will oppose the return of the absentee case. This, I daresay, is not the case; on the contrary, I think I may venture to assure your Excellency that if the House of Commons in Ireland perform their part in the manner we have required, the absentee tax will be returned with the consent of the whole cabinet, as well of those who were absent from the council in August last, as of those who were present.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I need not desire your Excellency to keep this letter as secret as my last.

"As the tax upon absentees will meet with so much opposition in so many places, it must be sent over with the other taxes and regulations near the beginning of December if you expect them back by Christmas day."

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ November 9th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—I received, by the messenger, the honour of your Lordship’s letters of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> past, together with his Majesty’s letters for the re-union of the boards of revenue, and for the other purposes dependent upon that arrangement. Whilst I repeat my dutiful acknowledgments to his Majesty for his very gracious attention to my representations upon this particular point, permit me to express my thanks to your Lordship for the consideration and dispatch which you have been pleased to give a measure which has diffused very general satisfaction here.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Also, my dear Lord, I desire your acceptance of my warmest thanks for the very candid communication you have been pleased to make of your sentiments respecting the absentee tax, and of your determination to support, in council, that measure, in case it should be carried in parliament here. The three letters which you did me the honour to enclose, while they evince the very honourable support you give to my administration in this

Kingdom, show me, at the same time, the difficulties which may follow a measure which, in its consequences, will, in some degree, affect the property of some of the most considerable men in England.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I will frankly own to your Lordship that the decided opinions of some of the wisest and most experienced men in this Kingdom, and the general wishes of the people for half a century past, added to the exigencies of government, naturally led me to press with earnestness upon your Lordship, last summer, this tax, as one of the most eligible schemes of relieving the present distresses of this Kingdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I likewise considered it as an expedient likely, in its commencement, to conciliate the body of the nation.

\* \* \* \* \*

"This, like every other mode of taxation, must naturally irritate those whose hitherto untaxed estates would principally be affected by it; and must be attended with inconveniences, which, however, are not to be mentioned in comparison to the advantages it must produce. Had these inconveniences not reached your Lordship they probably would not have been known to me, or, at least, would have expired in this country almost

unheard of. But, my Lord, the instant I saw a possibility of this scheme clashing with the interests of your administration, I determined to waive the apparent advantages, and to accommodate the statesman who had so firmly and freely contributed to every thing that could be honourable or advantageous to the government in Ireland. In consequence of that determination, we have used our industry to divert the progress of this tax for the present. We mean to allow the bill to be moved in our House of Commons by a certain wild and inconsistent gentleman who has signified his intention to bring it forward. This will be sufficient to damn the measure, were no other means employed against it. Opposition, at first startled, are, by degrees, growing alarmed at what appears to be an approach to a general land tax. As to our own people, indecisive speaking to those who are against the measure, and defiance of those who wish to extort favours, have produced a kind of suspense in their sentiments.

“The letters written by the five lords which have been sent over to Ireland, and most industriously circulated; together with the threats denounced against your Lordship; are kindling the resentments of the country against the absentees. I will, however, in pursuance of the line of policy you desire, endeavour to make those letters a means of condemning the tax in the House of

Commons. The capricious instability observable in the opinions of the people of this country will, I have little doubt, if men are left now totally to their own inclinations, cause the desire for this much sought for boon to die in a few days. If this should not be the case, a very little addition to what has been already done on our part will be required to destroy it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I shall now let matters rest for the present, trusting that your Lordship will be persuaded that I have, in conformity to your wishes, taken the most effectual method to have the bill withdrawn. But, my Lord, this is a country in which every thing depends upon the caprice of the moment; and if, therefore, by any accident, in spite of all our endeavours the measure should pass the House of Commons, we will so arrange matters as to give little trouble in dealing with them on your side of the water. . . .

"I am, &c."



## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ November 20th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—I am indebted to your Excellency for two very obliging letters which, I assure you, gave me the greatest pleasure, as they brought the account of your triumphs in Ireland. Of late years few sessions have begun so prosperously, but I own I am rather uneasy at seeing your majority diminish as you approach the committee of supply; and I am afraid that the friends of the Castle, however well intentioned in other respects, will be a little staggered when they are called upon to grant new taxes, and to regulate the bounty upon corn. I hope, however, that they will give some relief to the distresses of their country without insisting upon the absentee tax. From your Excellency's last letters I conceive the most flattering expectations that the idea of that tax is now over; and I will freely confess to you that on this side of the water we shall think it a happy riddance. Whatever benefits Ireland might expect to derive from it, we could never have assented to it but as a measure earnestly desired by the whole people of that Kingdom,



and as a price unavoidably to be paid in order to obtain an effectual plan for the re-establishment of his Majesty's finances there. I took upon me, on Mr. Blaquiere's authority, to inform the lords of the cabinet council that it was highly probable that no sufficient plan would be sent over from Ireland without a tax upon the land of absentees ; and that it was next to certain that, if the absentee tax was to fail on this side of the water, all the rest of the plan would be rejected upon its return. After having made those representations to the council your Excellency may easily suppose that I am happy to find that the absentee tax is not to be proposed or promoted by the Castle.

“My brethren in administration, who, from what I had said to them, had determined to assent to this measure from the absolute necessity of the case, and as a return for large concessions on the part of Ireland, would, I am afraid, have been surprised to see it originate or receive a very cordial support from any part of administration. But I will not trouble your Excellency any more upon this subject ; it is probably now over. If your House of Commons should let it pass, as your Excellency does not intend to use any influence in support of it, I think it not improbable that it will be stopt in your privy council. Every person here from the lowest *to the very first person*

in the Kingdom will be extremely glad to hear that it has failed in Ireland. I thought it right to let you know this by a messenger, as I imagine that if the privy council should have this matter before them, and should be disposed to reject it, you might, on account of the *great opinion I allude to*, chuse to let the business take its course without exerting yourself in its favour.

“It is proper that you should be informed of the sentiments of every person of importance in England respecting so material a question as that which is before us; but, after giving you this information, it is right that I should repeat, what I have said before, that if the heads of a bill for taxing absentees comes over properly arranged, and accompanied with the other measures which were recommended to your Excellency from hence, I think myself bound in honour to use my utmost endeavours to have the bill returned. The ability, publick spirit, and resolution, with which your Excellency conducts a most arduous and important part of the publick business, makes it the duty of every servant of the crown to give you all possible support; and, let me add, the very kind and generous attention which you are so good as to show to my particular situation entitles you to every return of gratitude and assistance from me.

“All accounts from Ireland agree with your

Excellency in extolling the abilities, candour, and knowledge, with which Mr. Blaquiére has conducted the public business in the parliament of Ireland. He has not exceeded my expectation. From the opportunities I have had of conversing with him I own I should have been disappointed if he had not given eminent satisfaction. I am particularly obliged to him for the very honorable mention he made of me in his speech of the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month. If he obtains a considerable part of those measures which were recommended to his care, he will deserve greatly of both Kingdoms. Two of the most difficult points he has to carry are, as I apprehend, the regulation and limitation of the corn premiums, and the granting some duty for a long term as a security for the annuities. They are both, however, so important to the credit and revenue of Ireland that I cannot help repeating my most earnest wish that he may push them in Parliament and carry them through.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST PRIVATE.

“*November 22nd, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I informed your Lordship, in my letter of the 9<sup>th</sup>, that no proper management should be wanting, on my part, to prevent the absentee tax from passing the House of Commons. But, of late, I find that the sense of the generality of people upon that measure has taken such a turn that I begin to doubt whether government, with all its influence, will be able to get it rejected, without betraying a degree of inconsistency which might be very prejudicial to his Majesty's affairs. This change in the dispositions of gentlemen has been effected, as I am informed, by the industrious publication which the five lords have made of their correspondence with your Lordship upon that subject. I have had the pleasure of hearing, from all parties, that your Lordship's answer to those lords has given universal satisfaction, and that it is everywhere treated as a manly, spirited, and candid performance. The lords have rested their opposition to this measure upon a foundation which people here will not

suffer to be disputed, for the justice and equity of the tax were admitted on all hands. The supposed insidiousness of it was the object of apprehension. It was given out as covering a design on the part of English Ministry to introduce a general land tax hereafter. Upon this head the five lords have chosen to be totally silent. That suspicion, therefore, is every day dispersing more and more, and a warm inclination to the measure seems, now, to be daily gaining ground. I shall, however, observe a strict neutrality upon the occasion, leaving it entirely to the determination of the gentlemen themselves, as a great national point in which the country is most immediately concerned, and upon which, as Colonel Blaquiére very properly expressed himself, I shall follow, and not lead, the wishes of the House.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

“*November 23rd, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—As it is right that your Excellency should be acquainted with the sentiments of every person of weight in this Kingdom concerning the great affairs now under consideration in Ireland, I have ventured to enclose for your Excellency’s perusal two extracts from a note I received to-day<sup>a</sup>, which I communicate in the utmost confidence that your Excellency will not mention them to any other person whatsoever, and will return them to me, when you shall have read them, by the messenger.

“As this letter is merely an envelope for the enclosed paper, you will be so good as to burn it when it has done its business.

“I am, &c.”

COPY OF THE EXTRACTS REFERRED TO.

“I cannot one instant delay communicating to you the contents of the letters transmitted from

<sup>a</sup> Probably from the King.

Ireland. As you will see by Mr. Blaquiere's letter to Lord Rochford that the absentee tax will probably pass, and that they do not mean to touch on the corn bounty till after Christmas, this totally changes the proposition. The absentee tax is consequently to be returned without removing what alone induces administration to support this otherwise very objectionable tax."

Some expressions follow to the same purport but stronger than the preceding, and the note concludes thus :—

"As you probably answer Lord Harcourt's letter to-night, I thought it right to let you know that they are, in Ireland, in my opinion totally defeating this measure that now seems to be meeting with friends on that side the water."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

*"November 23rd, 1773.*

"MY LORD,—I had yesterday the honor of your Excellency's letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month, and most sincerely congratulate you upon the very material question you have carried in the House of Commons for restraining the local grants. This I intended to have done by the post, but I now think it right to send a messenger,



upon reading your Excellency's and Colonel Blaquiere's dispatches to Lord Rochford, which his Majesty sent me this day from Kew. Perhaps I may be mistaken in the inference I draw from them, but it seems to me as if there was a probability of our receiving the heads of the bill for laying a tax upon absentees at once, whereas the proposal of regulating the bounty upon corn is to be put off till after Christmas. This arrangement confounds and perplexes all our plan, and will take away the principal argument and inducement of consenting, on this side of the water, to so ineligible and so anti-British a measure as a tax upon Irish absentees.

“His Majesty and his servants, when they gave your Excellency hopes that the re-union of the revenue boards and the absentee tax might be assented to, expected that the Irish parliament would, on their part, in return for those concessions, consent to regulate the bounty upon corn, and to the other propositions which were recommended to your Excellency from hence. The hereditary revenue in Ireland is so justly the first concern of the servants of the Crown, that no plan can be acceptable here which leaves it in a precarious situation; &, whilst a measure so essential to it as a new regulation and limitation of the corn bounty remains uncertain, the return of the tax upon absentees can never be justified.



"We are much disappointed here at seeing the new turn that the gentlemen of Ireland have taken upon this business. As it could never be the plan of British Government, we were convinced, when the Irish abandoned it, that we should hear no more of it ; which renders the present intelligence the more disagreeable. I have still some faint hopes that, tho' it should pass your parliament, it will fail in your privy council. As to our privy council there will be a good deal of difficulty in carrying it thro' on any terms ; but if it comes unaccompanied by the regulation of the corn bounty and the other expected measures, I shall think the success of it most extremely doubtful ; and your Excellency will easily conceive that it must be a very serious event indeed to a first commissioner of the treasury to lose a great political question in the privy council.

"The nobility and gentry who usually reside in England and have estates in Ireland, are soon, I believe, to have a meeting on the subject of the expected tax. They have already retained Mr. Lee and Mr. Dunning to plead their cause before the privy council. The city of London are, as I understand, preparing their recorder and their other council for the same purpose ; but it is not the eloquence of these learned gentlemen which I so much dread, as the universal prejudice which prevails here against the measure ; and the want of

proper arguments, and sufficient inducements, to defend it, and to reconcile the minds of people to it.

“Is it necessary that the absentee tax should come over in the same bill with the old additional duties which must be returned before Christmas? If it comes separate it may be detained here till we see the intentions of the Irish parliament respecting the corn bounty; so that we may be sure of having both the tax and the regulation, or neither. Another reason for separating this tax from the old additional duties is, that the different discussions and hearings which we shall have upon it, will almost unavoidably keep it here till after the holidays.

“This hint I throw out upon the supposition that, as it is grown popular again, it may possibly pass, which, however, I most devoutly wish on all accounts may not be the case.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST SECRET.

(Duplicate to Lord Rochford.)

“*November 26th, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—As I imagine that your Lordship will be very impatient to hear the fate of the proposed tax upon absentees, I have dispatched this messenger to inform you that the question came on yesterday, in the committee of ways and means, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the debate upon it lasted till near 2 o'clock this morning.

“The wild and inconsistent gentleman, to whom I alluded in my letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, opened the debate by propounding a resolution for imposing a tax, in general, upon the estates of absentees. He did not specify the particular sum to be levied, nor the length of residence which should exempt people from the tax, nor whether the impost should be applied for the support of government, or to any other purposes. He employed, moreover, reproachful epithets, expressive of the distressed and wretched state of this

country. His motion was, with very great reason, objected to as being too vague, uncertain, and improper. In the end, he was, with much difficulty, prevailed upon to withdraw it. Thereupon, Mr. Silver Oliver, one of the knights of the shire for the county of Limerick, moved the following resolution :—

“Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee that a tax of two shillings in the pound be laid upon all the net rents and annual profits issuing out of all lands, tenements, and hereditaments in this Kingdom payable to persons who shall not actually reside in this Kingdom for the space of six months in each year, from 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1773, to 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1775, inclusive.”

“Upon this proposition the debate immediately began, and, as I am informed, was conducted with great warmth and ability, as well by those who supported, as by those who opposed. The principal speakers in support of the tax were Mr. Speaker, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Flood, Counsellor Carleton, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Brownlowe, Sir L. O'Brien, Mr. Bushe, Mr. Burke, Mr. Serjeant Dennis, Mr. Longfield, and Mr. Holmes. Against it, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Conolly, Mr. Tighe, Mr. Barry (Lord Farnham's brother), Mr. Hussey, Mr. Dennis Daly, Sir Charles Bingham, Counsellor Hamilton (Lord Donegal's member), Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Foster,

Mr. Ogle, and Mr. Talbot. Mr. Langrishe and General Cunninghame, though they seemed to support the principle of the bill, embarrassed the measure with so many difficulties about the mode of collecting, that it is hard to say, particularly of the latter, whether they were for or against it. I understand that the justice and equity of the tax were admitted on all sides, but that opposition laid their principal stress upon these points. First, that, as a variety of new taxes was to be granted for the support of government, this, in particular, would be unnecessary. Secondly, that it would be impolitic, as tending to irritate people of high rank in England against this country.

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“ Finally they did, unanimously, and in the most violent manner, inveigh against the insidious and deep designs of English government to introduce, by these means, a general land tax. To this latter part Colonel Blaquier thought it incumbent on him to reply; and his speech, as I am informed, operated to the full conviction and satisfaction of the whole House. The other two points were answered by Mr. Speaker, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Flood, and Mr. Brownlowe. They said that, if this measure should be adopted, it would be at the option of members to lessen some of those taxes to which they had already agreed in the committee of ways and means, upon the report

to the House. With regard to loss upon the sale of estates, it was stated that the effect would be to occasion owners to sell their lands in small portions to persons of moderate property in the country; and that this would produce that division of property, and that residence of the proprietors, which it ought to be the object of the legislature to encourage. The Speaker, in particular, made it appear clearly that, if this partial tax should take place, the resident gentlemen would have more reason to complain of it than the absentees; for that, upon a comparative view of the supply granted, this tax upon absentees would not be in the proportion of *one hundred and sixtieth part* of what was paid for the support of government and the protection of their property, by gentlemen who resided in the country.

“About 2 o'clock this morning the question was put whether the tax to be imposed should be one or two shillings. The Committee divided, and it was carried against one shilling by 119 to 107. Then the question was put upon the original motion made, by Mr. Oliver, for two shillings, and carried against by 120 to 106.

“And thus, this long expected measure which, for ages past, has been the constant topic of their discourse; the warmest object of their complaints and wishes; and, till within these three months past, considered as too important an acquisition



even to be hoped for by this country ; has been rejected by a majority of 14. Such an instance of capriciousness and instability is perhaps hardly to be met with, and will mark to his Majesty and his ministers the tempers of the gentlemen of this country, and that wild and inconsistent conduct which every Lord Lieutenant has to encounter in a much more forcible and comprehensive manner than words can express.

"I must inform your Lordship that, at a late private meeting of the 'confidentials,' it was proposed and insisted upon that the absentee tax should precede the stamp act in the ways and means. This insidious proposition would, infallibly, have established the absentee tax in the first instance ; and absolutely have defeated the stamp act, which is the great and first resource of his Majesty's Government.

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"From the moment I received your Lordship's long private letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> past, concerning the embarrassments you were under with respect to the absentee tax, it has been the constant object of my thoughts to dispose of this question in such a manner as should, at the same time, be not dishonourable to my government and convenient to your Lordship. I will take this occasion to say that if the utmost circumspection had not been had, I am convinced that, notwithstanding the



declarations of administration at the onset, the measure would have been carried in the affirmative by a majority of, at least, two to one. But the firm and honourable part which your Lordship did maintain on this point, independent of that support which I am confident you will ever feel disposed to give to every chief governor of this country, and to me in particular, called for every possible exertion at my hands; and it is with particular satisfaction that I see these endeavours crowned with a success, which I had scarcely dared to hope for.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

*“November 26th, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your several private, secret, and confidential letters to the 18<sup>th</sup> instant have been duly received ; and, tho’ they have not been regularly acknowledged, I am no less sensible of your Lordship’s having omitted no occasion of keeping me informed of all that has passed since the meeting of the parliament in Ireland ; and I hope there is no need of my repeating to you the sincere interest I take in every thing that can contribute to the good success of your Lordship’s administration.

“Your most private and confidential letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, tho’ not marked duplicate, appears to be addressed to Lord North as well as to myself ; and, as the several important matters contained in it, concerning the operations in Parliament, have been treated from the beginning solely in your correspondence with Lord North, I will entirely refer you to what his Lordship may have

written to you on those subjects. However, I cannot avoid reminding your Lordship, confidentially, that the absentee tax was taken into consideration here as only a part of a great plan, and not intended to be put into execution by itself. If, therefore, it should not die away of itself, or that your endeavours to stop its progress should not destroy it effectually, the King's servants can never let it pass here unless it comes over accompanied with the whole intended plan ; and especially with the more material part of it, the regulation of the present premium upon corn. In case, however, it should pass in Ireland without those conditions, it will be more prudent to send that tax as a separate act, and then it might be laid over till after the holidays, and not taken into consideration before we have the whole of the supplies before us.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ November 27th, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger is, within these two hours, arrived with the honour of your Lordship's kind and most private letter of the 20<sup>th</sup>, which, at this moment, I have not time to answer.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Your Lordship will never be surprised, after the accounts I have repeatedly sent you of the conduct of the people of this country, at any inconsistency which might turn up in this parliament.

“Strange as it would otherwise appear, your Lordship must be patient to learn that, after the most serious and unbiassed debate that was ever heard in this House, and after a final decision had been come to upon it, last night at 10 o'clock, Mr. O'Neil, a gentleman who had been violent in his opposition to the absentee tax, got up and proposed that a re-consideration should be had upon this measure, this day at 4 o'clock, in order to give it effect; notwithstanding all that had passed.

“Where the idea originated ; or whether the intention was honestly to further a scheme which now, once more, appears to be thought essentially advantageous to this country ; or whether it was intended to distress your Lordship and my administration (which, in truth, I am warranted to suspect), I cannot take upon me positively to determine. Nor am I able, at present, to inform you of the course which I mean to take for the direction of my proceedings in this matter. Sufficient will it be for your Lordship to know that, in my present situation, I feel it my duty to consider, in every instance, as far as the good of his Majesty’s service in this country will permit, the convenience of a person in your Lordship’s position. How much more I feel myself bound by the honourable, as well as the affectionate instances which your Lordship now gives me of your support, I certainly need not, at this moment, declare.

“The re-consideration of this matter is postponed till next Monday. We have all to-morrow to make up our minds in ; and your Lordship may depend that there is nothing which I will not attempt, consistently with the honour of government, after what has passed between us upon this subject, to divert the frenzy with which the mind of almost every member of the House of Commons seems at this moment to be possessed in favour of this measure. The debate to-day lasted but

a few hours. Mr. Flood was violent and able in behalf of the bill, in a degree almost surpassing every thing he had ever uttered before. It would appear as if he meant to take this occasion of utterly crushing to destruction the Duke of Leinster's party, and Mr. Ponsonby; against the latter of whom he made such a personal attack as that poor gentleman, I fear, will never recover from. Mr. Hussey made the best defence he was able; and I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that my secretary (who, by the bye, is overwhelmed with the kind expression of your opinion upon his conduct) delivered himself upon this occasion with singular ability and candour, to the entire satisfaction of the House, and exactly in the way which your Lordship and I should have desired.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

*"November 30th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—With a satisfaction that I can ill express, I have the pleasure of informing your Lordship of our having, last night, defeated the attempt which was made to re-consider the absentee tax. This bold attack upon the administration of both countries was conducted (surprised as you may be to hear it) by his Majesty's attorney-general of this Kingdom. An event of

this high importance will, naturally, require that I should give your Lordship a very particular relation of it as soon as possibility will permit ; but as we have all been up the best part of the night, it is scarce possible for me now to add more than a few words, which, I trust, will be agreeable to your Lordship and satisfactory to the King. After a most solemn debate, which lasted yesterday in the House about nine hours, upon the re-consideration of the expediency of taxing the absentees, the idea was rejected. By dexterous management, we were able to do this without dividing the House ; at which we laboured with all our might, in order to save appearances in the conduct of those real and faithful friends to administration who were obliged, upon this occasion, to adopt, to a certain degree, the other side of the question.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I feel abundant pleasure to think that it has been in my power to settle this business. I perceived, by your Lordship’s letters and anxiety, that it had become peculiarly critical and distressing to you. I cannot, however, conceal that the conduct we have had to maintain has been both arduous and difficult. Instances of any thing more arduous and difficult have perhaps never offered ; but, whatever pains and anxiety it has cost me, and whatever I may have put to the risk,



I shall be more than satisfied if it profits the King's government.

"The Committee of ways and means went through all their business last night, and, as the report will be made this day, I am in hopes we shall be able to send over the money bills by Sunday next.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*"November, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—The committee of supply sat this day for the first time ; the House is this moment up, and I enclose to your Lordship a copy of a minute of that committee, by which you will find that the sum to be granted in the money bill of this session is not to exceed the sum of £30,000, which, with £4,000 to be added thereto, as the salary to the Speaker, makes, together, £34,000, and creates a saving of the sum of upwards of £33,000. The grants in the money bill of last session exceeded £67,000. Lord Townshend found them at £119,000, and I think it was a great proof of his Lordship's good management that he was able to fight them down to £67,000 before he left the Country. I am extremely happy that my endeavours for his Majesty's service have been attended with so much success in this important matter. It was attack-

ing, in a most sensible part, the favourite jobs of individuals, which they had been long in possession of, and which they had carried at times against all the power that government could exert to prevent them. The debate upon this single point lasted near five hours. It was very ably conducted on the part of government, and opposition had summoned together all their friends upon this occasion; but as they had, very early in the evening, been defeated upon a resolution which was carried against them by 115 to 62, they were discouraged from dividing again, and gave up the point.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“*December 1st, 1773.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—I should not so soon have troubled your Lordship again, if a matter had not occurred last night in the House of Commons regarding his Majesty’s prerogative; which, as it appeared to me to have very sufficiently vindicated the exercise of that power in the crown, I cannot help mentioning with particular satisfaction.

“Sir William Mayne informed the House that he intended to take notice of the *douceur* which

his Majesty was lately pleased to grant for the relief of the private men in his regiments of infantry and dragoons in this Kingdom, as having been placed on the establishment in violation of the privileges of Parliament, and subversive of the first principles of the constitution.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Colonel Blaquiere spoke upon the occasion, and said that he had always understood it to be the undoubted right and prerogative of the crown to appoint and regulate the army for the general good, in such manner as to his Majesty should seem best, and of which his Majesty alone, constitutionally, was the judge; that this was the established practice, exercised invariably by the crown, of which there were innumerable instances upon record.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The province of parliament, as he conceived, extended only to the consideration, examination, and, if they pleased, rejection, of any expense which such arrangements might induce.

\* \* \* \* \*

“This was the province of the House, which he wished never to see invaded. The other was, unquestionably, the rightful prerogative of the crown, which he hoped never to see abridged.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The House, as I am informed, acquiesced, and

seemed to be perfectly satisfied. As this is a language which gentlemen have not been used to in this Kingdom, and as the prerogative of the crown has, in this particular, been so far vindicated and asserted, without any material objection or resentment, I could not conceal from your Lordship the real satisfaction I felt upon this occasion.

"I kept this letter open until the House should break up this night that I might inform your Lordship what passed in the committee of ways and means. The report is entirely gone through, and instructions are given to prepare heads of bills pursuant thereto, which will be done with all possible expedition, and I now hope to be able to transmit the bills for granting the additional duties by Tuesday next, at furthest. But the stamp act, the act granting the loan duties, and the tontine bill, requiring some particular regulations which are not yet finally settled, cannot accompany the first bill, but will certainly follow in three or four days.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*"December 6th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have the honour of enclosing, to your Lordship, a list of three bills

which were sealed this day in council, and are transmitted, by this messenger, in the usual manner, to Lord Rochford. The particulars of these being fully set forth in the letters which accompany them from the privy council, it is needless for me to take up your Lordship's time in entering into any minute detail of them. The stamp and tontine bills will follow, as I have already informed your Lordship in my letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, in a very few days ; I shall, therefore, proceed to state, in a general way, the substance of this business, which, I venture to persuade myself, will be highly agreeable to your Lordship.

"In my letter to your Lordship of the 19<sup>th</sup> November, the difference between the arrear supposed to be wanted, and that which now actually appears to be deficient, will have been very fully explained.

"It would now appear that there is an annual deficiency in the revenue of this Kingdom of the sum of £138,840 6s. 1½*d.*, instead of £126,054 12s. 11*d.* as was stated in the account No. 2, delivered to your Lordship. It was not, of course, in the nature of things possible to ascertain the precise sums until the accounts had been laid before the House.

"My great object being to put the revenues of this country upon a footing equal to the expenses of government, it was my first consideration to

estimate what might be done by regulation and reduction ; which your Lordship will see, by the paper enclosed, I have stated at £50,000. This was the sum stated by my Secretary to the House as the possible saving which might be made, if parliament and administration would cordially co-operate, and go hand in hand in this great business.

“The saving stated by the re-uniting of the boards, your Lordship will please to observe, is only the actual saving at this moment computed to be made. The further economical advantage, by the non-appointment of officers, and which must have gone to a very considerable expense, had the separation of the boards been carried into full effect, does not appear. I only state the £10,000 as the actual saving computed to be now made.

“The saving in the grants in the money bill is exactly what I have stated in the paper, about £17,000.

“With regard to the other two articles, the regulation of the premiums upon the land carriage of corn, and the establishing the writ of assistants in this country, they were stated by Colonel Blaquiere, in general terms, to the House, as the means for completing the remainder of the £50,000. To have stated the matter with more precision would have betrayed the greatest indiscretion in

administration, even supposing it to have been possible to have done it with any precision at all. I cannot avoid giving it to your Lordship as my opinion, that if one or both of these regulations should take place, of which I am not without hopes, the saving upon the one, and increase upon the other, will go to an amount far more considerable than I can venture to state.

“The £50,000 thus obtained by saving, and explained, I persuade myself, to your Lordship’s satisfaction, leads me, naturally, to the taxes granted to make up the sum of £138,800.

“Your Lordship will know that it must have been perfectly impossible for me to ascertain (where no estimate could be made) any thing like the precise sum that a stamp tax would produce. It was, however, necessary to state a sum to the House; and, although the £40,000 at which it is stated is merely conjectural, I must inform your Lordship that it is the general opinion, of the learned in the law in particular, that this tax may possibly produce £60,000 a year. I have seen no man who makes it less than £40,000; the sum at which I have taken it. The only article we could compute by were the newspapers; and they produce, upon estimate, £12,000 a year.

“The additional tax upon wines, putting them all upon the same footing with Spanish wines, will certainly produce £23,000.



“I think it possible that the additional duty of 6<sup>d</sup> per gallon upon brandy and geneva may not produce the whole of the amount to which, upon a fair medium calculation, it has been taken; because it must be expected that it may operate, in some degree, as a fresh incitement to smuggling; but, taken altogether, I have reason to think it may produce something, and that it certainly will not be prejudicial to the revenue. I have, therefore, included this with the rest, satisfied that it will be very agreeable to your Lordship, as it must be very grateful to the West India Merchants.

“The tax, or rather the new regulation upon fine teas, which met with your Lordship’s approbation, is fully explained in the letter from the privy council, and will certainly produce not less than £5,000 a year. Cards, upon estimate, £3,600; coaches are rated at £6,000; but, by the new regulation, which will affect the old, as well as the present additional duty, it is not doubted but that a much more considerable sum will be raised.

“Your Lordship consented to lay a new tax upon teas; and I suppose that a tax upon muslin may be considered, in regard to its affecting the East India company, as one and the same thing; yet, as this measure was not expressly stated to your Lordship (the necessity for it having only lately originated), I would not allow it to make

a part of the money bill ; because I shall never consent to clog that bill with any matter that may tend to distress, though in the remotest degree, your Lordship's administration, without your previous consent. Still, this is an object of the very highest moment to government here ; since the bread of a great part of the manufacturing people in this metropolis is said to depend upon it. The question has already excited the most dangerous disturbances in the city, and much blood has been spilt. I have, therefore, not a doubt but that your Lordship's humanity will readily engage you to agree to this bill. I send it unconnected with the rest, in order to leave its fate entirely at your Lordship's option.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ These several sums taken together, and amounting to £88,800, and added to the £50,000, under the head of savings, making an additional annual supply, for the use of Government, of £138,800, cover the whole of the insufficiency of the present revenue, and is all which, I apprehend, could possibly be asked.

“ There appeared a general aversion in the House to create, by any new taxes, a sinking fund. The surplus of the present loan duties amounts to about £16,000. The tax of five per Cent. upon imports, or dry goods as it is otherwise called, producing about £6,000 a year, is ap-

propriated, as your Lordship will see by the bill, in aid to that fund ; making, together, £22,000. The interest upon the tontine is about £16,000 ; so there will be a surplus of about £6,000 per annum. I had, therefore, an opportunity of yielding to the wishes of the people the tax upon tobacco, which was thought would have affected the poor, and about the produce of which, on account of the fresh encouragement to smuggling, some persons of experience in the revenue entertained the greatest doubts.

“I will not take up your Lordship’s time upon the subject of the tontine, as the particulars of it are so fully explained in the bill itself. Indeed it gives me concern to have been drove to the necessity of sending you so many volumes of papers ; but such a variety and so much important business have seldom been taken in hand, at the same time, in this Country. I am happy, however, to think that the most material part is disposed of ; happier still to think that it is done in a manner which, when it shall be represented by your Lordship to his Majesty, will, I hope, meet with his Royal approbation, and I trust that it may, from henceforward, be unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship with such repeated and voluminous performances.

“I am, &c.”

COPY OF THE PAPER REFERRED TO IN  
THE FOREGOING LETTER.

“ Estimate of the produce of the new additional duties, granted by parliament this session for the support of government ; and of the savings made, and proposed to be made ; which together will create an annual revenue to the Crown of £138,800 ; exclusive of £6,000 a year, the estimated amount of five per cent. upon dry Goods appropriated in aid of the loan duties.

Stamps . . . . .	£40,000
Wine . . . . .	23,000
Brandy . . . . .	9,700
Teas . . . . .	5,000
Cards . . . . .	3,600
Coaches . . . . .	6,000
Muslin . . . . .	1,500
	<u>£88,800</u>

Saved by re-uniting the Boards	£10,000	
Saved by Parliamentary Grants	17,000	
Saved upon Stationery in the House of Commons . . . . .	2,000	
Expectant upon the Regulation of the Corn Premiums, and the establishing the Writ of Assistants in aid of the Offi- cers of the Revenue, which, when obtained, may probably add a double increase of what is now stated . . . . .	21,000	50,000
		<u>£138,800</u>

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ December 9th, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—My thanks are for ever due to your Excellency for your kind attention to me and to my situation. The fluctuating opinions of the Irish Parliament kept us for some days suspended between hope and fear ; but your Excellency's letter of Monday last put a joyful conclusion to all our uncertainties ; and, indeed, whatever advantage the absentee tax might be expected to produce to Ireland would have been dearly purchased, if it had been carried upon a re-consideration. A second discussion in the same session of parliament of a rejected question, altho' it should be introduced in a new form, is a measure so productive of confusion and injustice, that it can hardly be justified by the importance of any proposition whatsoever. Some forms of business are essential parts of the constitution. That which would have been violated by the re-consideration of the absentee question is amongst the number, and those who have preserved it upon

this occasion have shown themselves true friends to Ireland. To be sure I am interested in the present case, but these would, I think, be my sentiments in any case whatever. I hear that the Marquis and his friends pretend to suppose that I am greatly hurt and disappointed at what has passed in Ireland. I should be glad to have it their real opinion, tho' certainly no event could have given me greater comfort than the rejection of the absentee tax.

"Your Excellency's friendship and ability have saved me from a most embarrassing situation ; for tho' I should undoubtedly, at all events, have kept my promise with your Excellency, I should have met with many persons amongst his Majesty's British counsellors who would not have allowed the revenue plan in Ireland to be such as justified our assent to the absentee tax. They would have urged their objections with greater vehemence when they found that the tax came over unaccompanied by any regulation of the bounty upon corn. I found that, in fact, many of those who ought to have joined with me in supporting the measure, if it became necessary, took every opportunity of washing their hands of it, and did me the honor of throwing it wholly upon me. Your Excellency cannot, therefore, wonder that I should wish to see that end to the business, which your Excellency's able conduct has effected.

But, I assure you, I do not feel half the satisfaction at the difficulty I have escaped, as I do at the review of the great points which your Excellency has carried, as Captain Jenkinson informs me, without any expense, and even without any promise of peerage or pension. To be sure the regulation of the corn premiums would nobly crown and complete the revenue plan, and secure to the publick the enjoyment of those duties which have been granted. Altho' I hope to see that drain of the publick treasure stopt, yet all the world must confess that even without it your Excellency's campaign has been most glorious and successful. You may depend upon it that your money bill shall be returned to you with all possible dispatch. By what I read in your papers and votes I hardly think that any objection will be made to your taxes, but such as they may be, they will be easily over-ruled.

“This session will probably have put the Irish finances upon such a footing that government may, for the future, be carried on with more credit and tranquillity. The great points now to be had in view seem to be to improve the publick revenue by saving and by better management; to avail the Crown of the expired pensions by avoiding, if possible, the grant of new ones; to defend the hereditary revenue, and to prevent the board from recovering that power and patronage which was



so grossly abused before the separation of the excise from the customs. As Ireland was never in better and abler hands than at present, I am certain that these and every other great point will be attended to, and, I hope, accomplished to the honor and happiness of the two kingdoms. On my part I do assure your Excellency that I will use my utmost endeavours to prevent any new pensions being sent from hence, except one *Royal Pensioner* of whom I spoke to your Excellency in a former letter. I will do what lies in my power to ward off even that pension for some time longer; for tho', in all probability, it will not be publickly arraigned, it may give disgust to the gentlemen of Ireland, if it comes immediately after their late liberality.

"Perhaps a more proper time for it will be when some considerable pension shall fall in. If your Excellency sees a favorable opportunity for doing it, you will be so good as to mention it. It will be agreeable here; but, at the same time, there is here so much moderation, prudence, and consideration of your Excellency's situation, I am confident it will never be passed while it is likely to distress or embarrass your government. Being upon this subject, I ought to inform your Excellency that nothing can give greater satisfaction to his Majesty than the manner in which you have conducted the publick business in Ireland. He

has many times, in conversation, done justice to your Excellency's measures, by speaking of them in the highest terms of commendation.

"I am, &c."

## Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl  
Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE AND SECRET.

“*December 10th, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—You will see by my official letter of this date that your conduct is much approved of, as well as Colonel Blaquiere’s; and I am sure you will believe me when I tell you that I take every advantage of it in the closet to push my friend Blaquiere’s business. But there is an opposition to it, and I cannot guess from what it arises. Perhaps Lord North has not been properly applied to. Suppose your Lordship was to write a line quite private to Lord North, beseeching him, for the good of the service, to recommend to the King to give some mark of favour to Blaquiere; hinting what you know would be agreeable, and, at the same time, let me know when you have written such a letter, and I will begin my attack on Lord North. Forgive my suggesting this. We have both the same views for our common friend, and I am never for leaving any stone unturned till I hit upon the right.

"Your Excellency may depend on my giving every possible expedition to the money bills, but I hope they will be here by Tuesday, or we shall be monstrously hurried indeed. However, every precaution is already taken to expedite them in time. I wish you most cordially a continuation of success, and hope you will believe me ever, my dear Lord, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"SECRET.

*"December 10th, 1773.*

"MY LORD,—I did not delay a moment to lay before the King your Excellency's letters, secret and private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant. I have the pleasure of acquainting you of the sense his Majesty has of the new proof your Excellency has given of your zeal for the support of his dignity; and of the attention shown to him in the late debate in the House of Commons in Ireland; by asserting in so strenuous and judicious a manner the lawful prerogative of the crown on the subject of the relief granted by the King, some time ago, to the private men in the infantry and dragoons on that establishment. I am happy to see that your Excellency has reason to flatter yourself with the prospect there is of your carrying the sessions

thro' in a manner so advantageous to his Majesty's service, and so honorable to yourself.

"I am expecting, every moment, your messenger with the money bills, and you may be assured that every possible dispatch will be used in returning them to you.

"I am, &c."

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST PRIVATE AND SECRET.

“ *December 15th, 1773.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I am, this moment, honoured with your Lordship’s letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, and am happy to find that my best endeavours to promote his Majesty’s service have met with his most gracious approbation ; and have, at the same time, given your Lordship that satisfaction and ease, to which your uniform, firm, and manly behaviour have so justly entitled you.

“If the late re-consideration of the absentee tax had been confined to an attack against my administration, it would scarcely have justified the notice that was taken of it in my letters ; but I looked upon it as the most open and daring attack, not only upon your Lordship’s administration, but even upon the King’s government ; and, as such, I used all the means in my power to resist it. If the Marquis and his friends pretend to suppose that you are greatly hurt and disappointed at what has happened in Ireland, they ought not to be undeceived ; for I may venture to assure

your Lordship, that, the more that idea prevails, the greater credit and honour will be derived from it, and the more shame and disgrace will fall to the share of others. Upon the whole, my Lord, the late attempt, which could have no other object than throwing every thing into confusion, has, in its consequences, proved a most fortunate event ; as it has strengthened the hands of administration, and has afforded, at the same time, sufficient matter of caution against the dark schemes of restless and ambitious men.

“Your Lordship very justly lays the greatest stress upon the regulating and restraining the corn premiums ; an evil which calls aloud for redress, but which, I am sorry to say, will not easily be found. The people of this country are, in general, so tenacious of this favourite and important object, and are so sensible of the great advantage which they gained by the ignorance and inattention of that administration which so scandalously betrayed the Crown into such a fatal concession, that I scarce find myself at liberty to flatter your Lordship even with the hope of restraining the enormity of those destructive premiums. But, however arduous and difficult the undertaking may be, it will be my duty to attempt it. I have the greatest confidence in the abilities of Mr. Blaquiére, to whom the matter will be confided in the House of Commons ; and I am not ashamed to acknowledge,



that the success of my administration has hitherto been greatly owing to his zeal, diligence, and superior abilities. While I am upon this topic, your Lordship will permit me to assure you that any favour or mark of distinction conferred on M<sup>r</sup>. Blaquiere by his Majesty, will be far more agreeable to me, and more conducive to his Majesty's service, than any favour I can receive; though no man sets a higher value on his Majesty's favours, or can retain a more grateful sense of those I have already received, than I do.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"MOST PRIVATE AND SEPARATE.

*"December 15th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I did not recollect, till I had finished my other letter of this date, that possibly your Lordship had forgot that the red ribbon is the object of M<sup>r</sup>. Blaquiere's wishes. He has it greatly at heart, and considers such a mark of distinction as the surest and best means of giving him that weight and credit in this country so essential for the carrying on of his Majesty's affairs with credit and success. I can only add that, should his Majesty graciously condescend to pay any attention to my earnest wishes and solicitations, and to confer this honourable mark of dis-

tion on Mr. Blaquiere any time during the approaching recess, it would, I am confident, contribute more than any thing towards the success of the important business that remains to be undertaken after the holidays; I mean the regulating and restraining the corn premiums, the revenue bill, and Mr. Dyson's pension.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I think my obtaining of the red ribband for Mr. Blaquiere of such infinite moment at this time, I have dispatched this letter to your Lordship by a messenger."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*"December 19th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have heard, within these few days, that Sir George Macartney might probably apply to your Lordship for his Majesty's leave to dispose of his pension. Should any attempt of that sort be made, I most earnestly request your Lordship to resist it, as nothing would be productive of greater mischief to this government than to open a door to that kind of traffic; which has, almost in every instance, proved of the greatest dis-service to his Majesty's affairs in this country. In obedience to his Majesty's orders, I have hitherto withstood every effort that has been made for leave to exchange or dispose of

either pension or employment ; and people, though very reluctantly, have been obliged to submit to it, as a measure from which government would never depart ; I thought it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of laying this matter before your Lordship, and I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*" December 25th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is with particular satisfaction that I have acquainted your Lordship, in my official of this day, with my having given the Royal assent to the bills therein specified ; as it has been with the utmost difficulty, and the greatest exertion of every effort I could possibly make, that I have been able to prevent the rejection of the great money bill ; on account of the alteration inserted with regard to the article of the duty upon teas.

"King, the messenger, arrived here last Thursday with the tontine, stamp act, and Lord Eyre's bill. The two former were read, for the first time, yesterday ; and, with the deepest concern, I am to inform your Lordship that, with the many alterations which appeared to have been made in them, it seems to be the almost universal opinion that they will both be rejected. It is impossible for

me to enter into any thing particular at this moment. Sufficient will it be for me to say that the same zealous regard for his Majesty's service which has, hitherto, directed my best endeavours to promote it, shall be the guide and only motive of my conduct upon this trying occasion, let the event be what it may. This very important business will meet with its fate on Monday, till which time the committee of comparison is adjourned. Your Lordship may depend on having the earliest notice of every thing that passes.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*"December 27th, 1773.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—The House is just up, and I have only time to inform your Lordship that the two bills have been rejected with an almost unanimous voice. It was absolutely impossible to stem the torrent; it would have been madness to have attempted it. I am persuaded that any resistance on my part might have endangered the bills which will be brought in to-morrow and, it is to be hoped, carried without much opposition.

"I am unwilling to trouble your Lordship with any thing further, until I can send you a circumstantial account of every thing that has passed;

which, as I shall send it by a messenger, may probably reach your Lordship before this letter. I was unwilling, however, to suffer a post to depart without giving you some notice of this interesting and serious event. . . .

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

“*December 30th, 1773.*”

“MY LORD,—The hurry and confusion which must have necessarily occurred upon a transaction of such serious importance as that which I notified to your Lordship in my letters of 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> instant, will, I am persuaded, plead with your Lordship the impossibility of dispatching sooner such a particular account of it as I could have wished, and as your Lordship must have impatiently expected.

“The House was in such a flame last Friday evening, when the tontine and stamp bills received a first reading after their return from England, that it required great management to restrain them from proceeding to acts of intemperance, and rejecting them with precipitation. It was with the utmost difficulty that Colonel Blaquiere could prevail, on Saturday, that the committee of

comparison should not make their report upon the several alterations till last Monday. I was extremely anxious to gain this little portion of time, in hopes that, short as it was, it might be employed to advantage in bringing gentlemen, if not to support the bills, at least to act with moderation and temper in their proceedings. For this purpose I did not lose a moment in sounding the dispositions of those whom we had every reason to reckon our firmest friends through the whole course of this Session. One and all exclaimed most vehemently against the alterations; which they did not scruple to style wanton, unnecessary, and unkind; and which, at all events, they were determined to oppose with all their power.

“Thereupon, I thought it my duty instantly to convene such of his Majesty’s principal and confidential servants as are usually consulted upon important occasions, together with such other persons of distinction as had great weight and influence in parliament. But, before I give your Lordship an account of the opinion of this meeting, I must observe that the alterations which had been made in the great bill of supply (which received the Royal assent last Saturday), particularly regarding the teas, had inflamed the minds of gentlemen to a degree that has closely affected every thing which has since followed. It was very un-

fortunate that, before they had time to cool, the stamp and tontine bills arrived so much altered in a variety of instances, as to revive what they were pleased to call, their resentment, which manifested itself in the most determined expressions to reject the bills. I must also observe to your Lordship that if the alterations made on the other side, in the great money bill before mentioned, had been reported, the bill would have been lost. The committee appointed to compare the heads of that bill with the transmiss, were, with the utmost difficulty, prevailed upon not to make any report; and this expedient was at length submitted to; but not without the utmost exertion on my part, of every thing that was possible and in my power to be done; nor was it yielded to by gentlemen on the opposition side without very great murmuring and reluctance.

“On the arrival of the tontine and stamp bills, my chief secretary went about, as I informed your Lordship, to every member and to every person of consequence, to argue and request, to moderate and explain; and, if possible, to reconcile gentlemen to the passing those bills. His labours, however, were fruitless and ineffectual. It was the unanimous voice of our friends, as well as of gentlemen who opposed government, that the House of Commons was ill treated by these alterations. They were looked upon as an unkind



return for their strenuous and liberal efforts to support the King's establishments in a time of difficulty and distress ; and a universal and determined resolution was exhibited to shew their resentment, as it was termed, by rejecting both bills.

"It was upon this disagreeable aspect that I thought it my duty to summon the meeting, on Sunday, of his Majesty's confidential servants before mentioned ; in order ultimately to determine what should be most advisable to be done for his Majesty's service on this very trying occasion. I was, accordingly, attended by my Lord Primate, the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Judges of the King's Bench and Common Pleas, the Lords Drogheda, Tyrone, Roden, and Ely, Mr. Malone, Mr. Prime Serjeant, the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, and Mr. Clements. They every one of them spoke upon the occasion, and, after great deliberation, all, with two exceptions, were unanimous in the opinion that if government were able to force the bills, which, beyond a doubt, could not be done, it would be the greatest folly and temerity to attempt it ; as, by inflaming the House, it would put to the utmost risk the ultimate passage of the bills, which were so highly essential to the government in whatever shape they might, hereafter, be introduced.

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“Upon Lord Shannon, who was ill and unable to attend the meeting, I called myself; I found that he was of the same opinion; and the Lord Chief Baron, who had signified his views from the country, was also of the same mind. I had no other course then but to give way, unless I had ordered my secretary to divide in a very small minority; to the discredit of government, and to the prejudice of its warmest friends.

“The Committee appointed to compare the bills with the transmiss made their report on Monday; and the bills were, accordingly, rejected. It would have been done unanimously; but, for the sake of preventing an entry of *nem. con.* in the journals, some few negatives were given.

“Although I can entertain no doubt of the power of altering Irish money bills in England, provided the tax is not altered, yet to obtain, and to communicate to your Lordship, the fullest information as to the exercise of this power, I have caused search to be made at the rolls in the secretary's office, and in the office of the clerk of the House of Commons. Three instances only can be found where any alterations, except of some few words in point of form and accuracy, have been made in money bills; and in two of these three instances the bills have been rejected. Gentlemen, who have been members of the House of Commons of Ireland for near half a century,

affirm that alterations so numerous and material were never before made in any bills of supply transmitted from Great Britain.

“In the debate the conduct of the members was moderate, and respectful to government. There was no attempt to advance or assert any new claim or privilege; on the contrary, the right to vary, for the purpose of explaining and enforcing, was expressly admitted; and his Majesty’s ministers in England, and the administration in this country, were exculpated by every gentleman who spoke.

“After the bills were rejected, the House was informed that heads of bills for the same purposes would be brought in the next day with altered titles. They were, accordingly, introduced on Tuesday last, and, after some debate, were ordered to be committed for next day. The committal of them was violently opposed by Mr. Barry Barry, Mr. Ponsonby, and the Duke of Leinster’s friends, but without effect, and both bills were this day brought up to me, in order to be transmitted in the usual form to England.

“Under all these circumstances, it is with some degree of satisfaction I reflect that no great prejudice can, I hope, arise to his Majesty’s affairs by these rejections; to the stamp bill certainly none at all; and to the tontine bill I trust it will be in no great degree. I have taken care that

a further time be allowed to subscribers, and I will use every endeavour in my power to preserve this scheme from any injury to which it may be liable by this untoward event. No cause for the rejection of the tontine and stamp bills is assigned upon the votes ; the bills are simply rejected according to the ordinary and constitutional method.

“The Committee who prepared the former bills as well as the heads of the bills now transmitted, have adopted, in the new bills, every alteration made in England which appeared to them to give strength and effect, without defeating the intention of the House and the design of the Law. In the light in which the House viewed the English alterations it certainly would have been impossible to have prevailed upon gentlemen to have adopted them all. Give me leave to apprise your Lordship that, soured and inflamed as the House of Commons now is, and their dissatisfaction very far from being subsided, if these bills should receive any material new alterations on your side, they will most certainly meet with the same fate with the two already rejected. I am moreover confident that there would not remain the smallest chance of my being able to obtain them again. I most earnestly request, for the sake of his Majesty's service, that these facts may be duly and maturely considered.

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"The House of Commons adjourned this day until Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of January; by which time I hope the bills will be returned to us, without any other alterations than what are merely literal and of no importance. If, upon their being duly considered on the other side, it shall be thought that any material alterations are necessary to render them more complete and effectual, I would beg leave to submit it, whether it will not be more advisable to allow us to supply such defects by new bills, or by clauses in the revenue bill to be prepared in this Kingdom and transmitted from hence, rather than by inserting them in England to occasion the loss of the bills; which, I have not the smallest doubt, will be the most certain consequence of such alteration.

"I am very sensible that, from the shortness of the time allowed for the consideration of money bills, many inconveniences must arise. Your Lordship may depend upon it that it shall be particularly attended to, and, as far as it depends upon me, be hereafter prevented.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE.

“*December 31st, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—I cannot let the messenger return to your Excellency without acknowledging the receipt of your obliging letters of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, to which I will endeavor to answer more fully in a day or two. In the meanwhile I am much obliged to your Excellency for putting me upon my guard against Sir George Macartney’s application. He has not lately spoke to me upon the subject, but I shall certainly in that, and in every other point, consider, as my first object, the ease of your Excellency’s situation, and the future facility of conducting his Majesty’s affairs in Ireland.

“I am much concerned to find, on reading the copy of your Excellency’s letter to Lord Rochford, that the alterations made in the money bills have given such an alarm and caused so much discontent in Ireland. I could not attend the whole of the two meetings of the council when the Irish bills were under consideration ; but,

while I was there, I am sure there was the greatest solicitude expressed by every body present not to do any thing that could give uneasiness to the House of Commons in Ireland; and it was, on that account, determined to leave untouched a clause in the additional duty bill by the expressions of which certain commodities, which the parliament really meant to tax, were, in fact, left free from duty. We abstained from correcting even a manifest mistake rather than give occasion to any person to say that we had laid a duty in Ireland beyond the petition of the Irish parliament.

“As to the alterations that are made, tho’ they are numerous, they are either literal or absolutely necessary to carry the acts into execution. By the great money bill the commissioners of revenue in Ireland were required to produce the *original* sale books of the East India Company. The impossibility of executing this direction was evident; the council, therefore, altered it to *copies* of the sale books authorised in a certain manner. I own I am surprised that so great a stir should have been made about so proper an alteration. The principal amendment in the tontine bill was equally necessary. The clause respecting survivorship was so obscurely expressed, that the rights of the subscribers would have been always in doubt. The House of Commons will not deny



that the clause, as it is now worded, clearly conveys their meaning. There is certainly a new clause added to the stamp act. I happened to be absent when it was under consideration in council, but, upon reading it, I am convinced it is absolutely necessary for the execution of the act. I mean that clause which obliges all Judges to take notice, *ex officio*, of the King's proclamation, the stamps, &c.

"I remember some alterations in the tontine bill requisite to enable *Jews* to purchase the annuities, and to accommodate subscribers who do not reside in Ireland. The greater part of the other amendments, if I recollect, are merely literal, but necessary. This I am sure of, that there is no alteration imposing, increasing, or diminishing, any duty, or subjecting any person to a duty who was not subject to it by the original bill, or exempting any person who was. Whatever has been done, has been in order to correct some of those errors which had escaped the Parliament of Ireland; and which it was essential to correct in order to render the acts effectual. The King's right of altering money bills, as well as every other, is too clear to admit of a dispute, and too important to be given up. It surely could not have been exercised more moderately, more cautiously, more usefully, or more in conformity to the intentions of the Irish House of Commons

than in these instances. I am sorry it should appear otherwise on your side of the water. I am confident that a little recollection will set the matter in the same light as I see it in. I hope and trust, however, that if the tontine and stamp duty bills are rejected, the House of Commons will make the alterations their own, and bring in new heads of bills for the same purposes, adopting the amendments which have been sent from hence.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“January 14th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—I am much concerned to be forced, in answering your Excellency’s letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of last month, to take notice of the very unwarrantable language held by those whom your Excellency calls your firmest friends ; and who have thought fit to stile the alterations made here to the tontine and stamp acts as wanton, unnecessary, and unkind. You must give me leave to tell your Excellency that there cannot be a greater proof of such a charge being without the least shadow of foundation, in that, full of absurdities and errors as the bills are, they are now returned with only one or two literal alterations. Had there been a distant wish here to have been unkind, the council were never furnished with so fair an opportunity as these bills afforded them. I am persuaded, therefore, your Excellency will, with your usual prudence, endeavour to extinguish a flame that can but have been kindled by groundless suspicions.

“This leads me again to repeat, what I mentioned in a former letter, that bills of this magni-

tude coming over so late can never have the due consideration they ought ; and yet in the place where they were framed, and, it is to be supposed, fully considered, out of 94 amendments made here in the stamp act, 91 have been adopted ; and out of 70 made in the tontine act, 9 only were rejected.

“ After having written thus freely to your Excellency, I should be remiss in my duty if I did not say that the King entirely approved of your conduct in not suffering your Secretary to divide in a small minority, and that conduct is justified by the event, for now the bills are returned, and, I should hope, would meet with no further difficulties.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*January 20th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—Upon the general plan of reuniting the boards, as approved by your Lordship, a regulation in the secretary’s office appeared to me particularly necessary ; in consequence of which, upon giving this measure effect on the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month, I directed my secretary to signify to M<sup>r</sup>. Skeffington Smyth, principal secretary to the revenue board, that he could not be permitted to hold that important office any longer as a sinecure ; and, that if he chose to continue in it, I should expect a constant and daily attention to the duties. Upon this message, M<sup>r</sup>. Smyth accepted the alternative given him ; representing, that he had paid six thousand guineas for his employment, and that the emoluments thereof, until the separation of the boards, had never been less than £800, which he hoped would be made up to him. In my official letter to the lords of the treasury, I have recommended this gentleman for a pension of £500, and do mean, with your Lordship’s approbation, to order him, upon revenue incidents, £200 more, in consideration of the very

great sum he paid, with the sanction of government itself, for that employment. By this arrangement, no additional expense will be induced upon the public; Mr. Smyth's salary will only be transferred from the revenue to the civil establishment; the fees which he now receives from his office will be paid to Mr. Hamilton, with whose character your Lordship is well acquainted; and the salary of £500 which Mr. Hamilton now receives, and £200 out of the £250 paid to him upon incidents in lieu of fees, will be transferred to Mr. Smyth. Consequently, not a sixpence additional charge will be brought upon the public, and an office which has hitherto been held as a sinecure, and for many years disposed of by public sale, will be recovered to government; and, upon the demise of Mr. Smyth, an actual saving will be made to his Majesty of £700 a year.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ February 19th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—In all matters respecting Ireland it has always been my first principle to give every assistance and support to the Lord Lieutenant ; and your Excellency may be assured that what I think right to give to every Lord Lieutenant will not be withheld from your Excellency, after the very able and successful manner in which you have conducted his Majesty’s affairs. It is difficult, however, to engage positively to approve and support a bill of the purport of which I am not hitherto sufficiently acquainted. Your Excellency may, however, depend on the greatest willingness on this side of the water to promote every thing that is desired by the Lord Lieutenant and the parliament of Ireland, with both of whom we have the greatest reason to be pleased. The evils which the revenue daily suffers in consequence of bounties make me start at a proposition of that nature more than at any other. Such premiums often defeat all the provisions for the public service, and may consume the better



part of that supply which the liberality of Ireland has afforded to government in the course of the current session. Your Excellency may be sure that my opinion will lean towards yours, and that your proposal will be admitted if your bounty is within reasonable limits both in point of time and of sum, and if no very great objections, hitherto unforeseen, arise against it.

“While I am talking of bounties, I think it necessary to state to your Excellency that by the great sums which are now granted in bounties, and others which are issued without fees to the vice-treasurers, their offices are reduced to about £1,700, or £1,800, per annum. They have applied to me to recommend a petition to your Excellency (which you either have or will soon receive), in consequence of a new expense that a regulation of this year has brought upon them. Both my regard to the present possessors, and the publick importance of keeping up these places to a competent value, induce me to be earnest in their cause, and to solicit your Excellency in their behalf.

“What your Excellency mentions respecting the tontine bill, is not, in its nature, so liable to objection as the grant of premiums, and will, I dare say, meet with no difficulty.

“His Majesty has this day signed the letter for granting £10,000 to the foundling hospital

and workhouse at Dublin. Your Excellency has a fresh claim to the thanks of his Majesty's servants, both present and future, for having obtained of the Irish House of Commons an engagement to make good the expense to the King ; a practice certainly very reasonable in itself, and absolutely necessary for the preservation of the revenue of the Crown. I hope this precedent will henceforward be invariably followed.

“Tho' I am always inclined to assist Ireland in their linen trade, I am afraid I shall not be able to support the propositions which will be offered to the parliament, in the course of the present session, by the linen manufacturers of the two kingdoms. Their first request is to have 10 per cent. additional duty laid upon all foreign linens, not to be drawn back upon exportation ; and to take off all the drawbacks upon printed foreign linens when re-exported. Your Excellency must see immediately the very extensive consequences of such a measure, and the alarm it must necessarily cause in this Kingdom. Indeed I never heard a commercial proposition made in parliament big with more danger, and I have no notion that it can possibly find its way thro' the two Houses. Perhaps the linen manufacturers may hit upon some other request less exceptionable. In the mean time, we have heard with pleasure that this manufacture is reviving again

in Ireland, and I hope that the report will be soon confirmed.

“Since I wrote to your Excellency concerning Sir George Macartney, he has been with me, and has made me the request against which your Excellency put me on my guard. His desire is to be eligible in parliament, from which his pension excludes him. Finding that I objected to a change of names, he proposed that he should be appointed constable of Tuam, during pleasure, and have his pension annexed to it as a salary. I do not much approve of creating a new office, and absolutely refused to consent to any thing till you had been previously informed of it. If your Excellency should have any objection to his request you will be so good as to tell me freely. I have given Sir George no hopes, and I can, at any time, repeat my objection to the creation of a new office without mentioning you. As the general election approaches he will be, with reason, more impatient to be freed from his present uncomfortable situation.

“I was happy at seeing the stamp and tontine bills returned so soon to England. Your Excellency might perceive that the two alterations made here were as small and immaterial as possible; and I believe I can venture to assure your Excellency that, in the former alterations, there was not the least intention to cavil or dispute with the

parliament of Ireland. We cautiously avoided any amendment by which we might be misconstrued to have imposed, increased, or diminished, or altered any tax; and the reason of a greater number of amendments this year than formerly, was, that in two bills of a nature entirely new, more errors, as might be expected, were found than there used to be in bills which had been long ago settled and digested, and which were only repeated from two years to two years. Mistakes in revenue bills in this country are of great importance, and we apprehended that several of those which were in the two original bills from Ireland would be of essential prejudice to the execution of the acts. This affair is, however, entirely over, and with it, I hope, all resentment on your side of the water against his Majesty's servants. On our side, you may depend upon it that we reflect with no other sentiments than those of approbation and satisfaction on the wise, generous, good humoured, and publick spirited conduct of the House of Commons of Ireland.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I was, some time ago, applied to by the gentlemen concerned in the Lagan Navigation. They wish to have their local duties granted for a longer term than two years, in order to be able to borrow money upon them; but they apprehend that there is an order from hence to the govern-

ment of Ireland not to consent to any term for local duties while the publick duties are granted only from two years to two years. Your Excellency knows that my opinion is that grants of money upon which a loan is to be negotiated ought always to be made for a term of years; and, therefore, I can have no objection to this application. Indeed I should rather wish to see a precedent of such a grant in Ireland. Charges upon the publick revenue, for which no special fund is provided, ought not to be laid for a longer term than the publick duties are provided for; but I think the case is different where a local advantage is secured upon a local duty, and the state is not made liable to any expense. Your Excellency cannot act better, in the case of the Lagan Navigation, as in every other, than by your own discretion; to that I willingly leave the business. If it is convenient to your Excellency to quote resolutions of government to the contrary, you shall not be disavowed, but, if you think it right to grant the request, the measure will not meet with disapprobation from me.

“Before I seal my letter I beg leave to enclose one which Mr. Robinson has just received from Mr. Stephenson, a very considerable gentleman in the city, a most worthy man, and a staunch and disinterested friend in parliament. His nephew, Captain Gaull, being senior captain in his

regiment, as well as an officer of merit, his request does not appear unreasonable, and I can assure your Excellency that your compliance therewith will greatly oblige me, and be of service to his Majesty's affairs in parliament."

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of  
Rochford :—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

*“ March 6th, 1774.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—When the amended tontine bill was in its progress through the House of Commons, it was one constant cause of contention that it was a bill of supply. This was as constantly resisted by administration, and it was retorted that, in the general sense of the House, it was a bill of regulation only; and that this principle had been established upon several divisions by a large majority, wherein this point was, in effect the implied, though not the stated, question. It was with much surprise, therefore, that the speaker was heard to declare from the chair last Wednesday, after the bill had been passed in form in the House of Commons and ordered to be sent up to the Lords, that he should expect to have it returned from that House to the Commons as a bill of supply, for which his Majesty was to return his thanks.

“ This declaration was made in a very thin House, immediately on the speaker taking the



chair, and in the absence of my secretary. Nothing further was said upon it ; but it appeared to me to be a matter of so much importance, that I, the next day, convened a meeting of the confidential servants, at which were present the Primate, the Chancellor, the Chief Judges of Common Pleas and Exchequer, Mr. Malone, the Prime Serjeant, and the Attorney-General. The speaker was summoned, but he excused himself to my secretary, upon a point of delicacy to himself, as his conduct was to be the subject of discussion.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The confidentials, before mentioned, were unanimously of opinion that this amended bill was a bill of regulation only, and ought to be passed as such ; that it was not a money bill ; and that, in its passage through the House of Lords, and in receiving the Royal assent, it was to be considered and taken as a common ordinary bill.

"In the House of Lords the Duke of Leinster, and the Lords Charlemont, Bangor, Irnham, Mountmorris, and Meath, affected, amongst other arguments against the bill, to put the same construction upon it as the speaker had done. The House divided 32 to 6, and yesterday the usual message was sent from the Lords to the Commons that they had agreed to the bill without any amendment.

"Upon receiving this message a debate ensued

upon the declaration which the Speaker had before made from the chair; which lasted till past 10 at night. On the part of government, it was very strenuously argued that it was no money bill; that it had not gone through the usual forms in the committee of supply and ways and means; and that it had been considered throughout in no other light than as a bill of regulation; and, finally, that it did not grant one additional shilling of supply to the Crown. The contrary doctrine was very tenaciously maintained by opposition; they insisted that as a portion of a fund (which, in the original bill, had been set apart to be disposed of at the discretion of parliament) was to be applied for the discharge of certain new expenses to be induced by this bill, it could not be considered in any other light than as a bill of supply to his Majesty; and they moved for a conference with the lords thereupon.

“When it was conceived by the House that the debate was over, the Speaker stood up and asked whether any gentleman had any thing further to say upon the subject; and, there being a general silence, he then said that he persevered in the declaration he had previously made from the chair; and that he could not consider the bill in any other light than that of a bill of supply; for it had been allowed on all hands that without this amended bill the former one could not receive

effect. He was, however, cautious enough to say that he did not deliver this as a point of order or privilege, although he conceived they were both materially involved in it, but he gave it as the opinion of a man who valued, beyond his life, the rectitude of his conduct, and the privileges of the House. He owned he might be even prejudiced in the cause, as he revered their privileges so highly; but, upon the most solemn deliberation, this was the result of his mind. He concluded with a most pathetic exhortation to the House to support their privileges and their rights, and to deliver them down to posterity pure and inviolate.

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“The Speaker’s language made such an impression upon the House (which has always been ready to fire in matters of privilege, to which their attention had now been industriously misled), that appearances were strong against us; and, when the Speaker had finished his discourse, our friends hung their heads. My secretary then arose. There was a good deal of murmuring for some minutes. The House seemed disinclined to hear any answer to their Speaker. However, Colonel Blaquiere saw the necessity of stepping forth on this very critical occasion, when the very existence of Government was at stake; he, therefore, persisted, and succeeded so well in his speech, that, contrary to the expectation of gentlemen, we

carried the question against the Speaker's declaration, and divided the House 100 to 63.

"Your Lordship will more easily conceive than I can express the confusion and embarrassment which would have ensued to his Majesty's affairs in this Kingdom, if this most important question had not been thus defeated, as it is universally acknowledged, by the uncommon presence of mind and abilities which my secretary exerted on that most trying occasion.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

*"March 6th, 1774.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship has been already informed of our success in carrying the important clauses in the revenue bill, respecting the legalizing the appointments of the revenue officers; the vesting the appointments of all those officers, for the future, in the Lord Lieutenant; and the writ of assistants. I have, therefore, no occasion to detain your Lordship upon those particulars, at present; but, as your Lordship will find two clauses in that bill which affect his Majesty's hereditary revenue, I think it incumbent

on me to explain, in this letter, upon what grounds they have been adopted.

“By one of those clauses, no duty is to be paid after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June next for or on account of any juniper berries, or any oil extracted from juniper berries, imported into this Kingdom.

“This duty constituted part of his Majesty’s hereditary revenue ; but it appeared, upon inquiry before the House of Commons, that no juniper berries had been imported for upwards of fourteen years ; and it was alledged that the relinquishment of the duty would very probably encourage an importation of them, and induce the distillers here to set up a distillery of geneva. This, in the opinion of people experienced in the distilling business, would produce a considerable revenue to the crown ; at any rate, it was an experiment worth trying, as it could be attended with no detriment, and might prove beneficial to the country.

“By the other clause, after 24<sup>th</sup> June next, where any person shall import crude brimstone or saltpetre, and use the same in extracting therefrom oil of vitriol or *aqua fortis* for the use of the linen manufacture ; such person shall be repaid all such duties as have been paid by him on the importation thereof, on his making it appear by *affidavit* that the same had been made use of, sold, or disposed of, for the use of that manufacture.

“This clause was received with the general approbation of the gentlemen of the House of Commons, who were very earnest that every encouragement should be given to this most important branch of their trade ; and especially at this juncture, when it stands so much in need of the support and protection of government. For these reasons I hope no objection will be made to it on your side ; especially as I am informed that, upon the strictest computation, it will cause a loss to the crown of about £200 a year, and no more.

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“With regard to the bill for the more effectual proceeding against persons standing mute on their arraignments, I shall only repeat what I have said in my public letter, that those learned in the law in this Kingdom think it a very proper one.

“As to the *habeas corpus* bill ; I have been informed that bills for the like purpose have been frequently transmitted from hence, but have never been returned. The enclosed is a copy of a paper which was prepared some years since by Mr. Justice Robinson, one of the ablest Judges of this Kingdom. He was desired by the then government to give his sentiments upon a bill of this nature. The paper contains, in my mind, the most powerful objections to such an innovation ; and no reasons have been since offered which can induce me to think that the present bill is entitled

to be considered in a different light from those which have been rejected upon former occasions.

"I cannot conclude without informing your Lordship that the utmost care and attention have been used, not only in the original framing of the revenue bill, but also in examining, comparing, and correcting it of all mistakes. It was very warmly opposed in every stage of its progress through the House of Commons; and I have no doubt it will undergo the severest scrutiny, and receive every opposition that can be given to it on its return from England. Give me leave, therefore, to express my most earnest wishes that, if possible, it may be returned to us unaltered; or, at least, that the alterations may not be material; for, in the present disposition and temper of the House, any essential alteration will raise such a flame, and be received with so much ill humour, as will probably occasion the loss of the bill.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER REFERRED TO ON  
THE *Habeas Corpus*.

"The *habeas corpus* act is unnecessary for Ireland, because, for the cases which fall within the reason of it, the Court of King's Bench here has always looked upon the English act as a good guide for their direction, though not a declaratory or a binding law. And this is all which the circum-



stances of this country can admit of: for making it a binding Statute might interfere with the English Statute of 35<sup>th</sup> Hen. 8, for trial of foreign treasons; a power which is essential in the very idea of relation betwixt a mother country and her dependants; and it is a most absurd solecism in politics, to think of making the constitutions of colonies the same with that of the mother country.

"2<sup>dly</sup>. The papists of Ireland are four, if not five, to one of the inhabitants. These must be either admitted to the benefit of this law, or excluded from it; and then the dilemma stands thus: if they are admitted, any commotion may be of the utmost danger; if they are excluded, it will be invidious to deprive four fifths of the people of the constitutional right of subjects (as the *habeas corpus* act will be then esteemed), and it will be called an unprovoked throwing them out of the public protection.

"The only expedient will be a power of suspension somewhere. In England this is conveniently done by Parliament which meets every year. Here we meet but once in two years, and, therefore, it must be vested in government. What distress that may be to government, either by provoking the papists against them on the one hand by suspending it, or the Protestants on the other hand by not suspending it, is matter for consideration; but it seems a most embarrassing dilemma.

"They have been attempting this bill in Ireland for many years, and it has often been transmitted to England, where it was again and again considered, and at length, it was said, orders were sent from thence to transmit it no more. In truth, it seems irreconcilable to any idea of dependency, and especially as there is a sea betwixt us and the mother country.

"N.B. See Pryme on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, page 282, at the bottom; where, amongst the statutes of Kilkenny, that provision against trying in England for offences in Ireland is passed with an *express exception* of the case of treason, so that the English Statute of 35<sup>th</sup> Hen. 8, so far as Ireland is affected, is founded in the original constitution of this country.

"Great questions may arise upon the interpretation of the 'subsistence of actual invasion or rebellion,' inserted in the present bill. It was found necessary in King William's time to ascertain, by act of parliament, the day when the rebellion of 1688 ended."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"PRIVATE.

"March 6th, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—During the time the reconsideration of the absentee tax was in agitation

here, the Duke of Leinster, who was very uneasy lest government should take a strong part in support of it, came to me at the Castle and delivered to me the enclosed paper, assuring me, at the same time, that he was disposed to support my administration in every thing that did not tend to the prejudice of this country. I told his Grace, that, with respect to the absentee tax, as it had been rejected by the House of Commons when government stood neutral, I certainly should be far from giving it any support when the ground was so much changed, without express permission from his Majesty or his ministers. That, with respect to the measures of my administration, I could give him the most positive assurance that it should be my constant study and endeavour to serve this country, and that no consideration whatever should induce me to propose or countenance any matters that might be injurious to it. Finally, that I wished for his Grace's support no longer than my public conduct should entitle me to it. Thus this conference ended with mutual professions of regard and esteem.

"I very soon, however, found that this declaration on the part of his Grace made very little alteration in the conduct of his friends; who, although they did not so constantly attend, were as much in opposition as ever. I will confess to your Lordship that this seeming duplicity, if I

could have prevailed upon myself to have admitted his Grace to any share of my confidence, would have been sufficient to have discouraged me from it. I can say, with very great truth, that I neglected no opportunity of shewing him every other mark of my attention; and that my behaviour to his friends indicated no kind of resentment, though I thought myself ill-treated by them. Notwithstanding all this, his Grace's opposition to every important measure of government increased. His friends were violent on the revenue bill, and, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month, he surprised me with the letter of that date which I herewith enclose, marked N<sup>o</sup>. 1; to which I immediately returned the enclosed answer, marked N<sup>o</sup>. 2; and, on the day following, I received from his Grace the enclosed, N<sup>o</sup>. 3.

“As his Grace has made frequent mention of Colonel Blaquiere in these letters, I was very particular in desiring the Colonel to explain to me what had, at any time, passed between them, upon any matters that could possibly have given his Grace offence. I not only received the most entire and perfect satisfaction from him, but many persons of the first distinction in the House of Commons have assured me of the following facts. M<sup>r</sup>. Hussey, having dropt something which indirectly implied a disapprobation of the Colonel's proceedings, and being immediately called upon

to explain it, did, that day in the House, declare that he entirely acquitted Colonel Blaquiere, and never meant to charge him with any inconsistency respecting the amendment which his Grace is pleased to fix on Colonel Blaquiere. Mr. Scott, council to the revenue board, of whose zeal for his Majesty's service I cannot say too much, having been told by me of the Duke's assertion about Colonel Blaquiere, has sent me the enclosed letter, marked N<sup>o</sup>. 4, to which I beg leave to refer as the fair account of what did pass.

"His Grace's declaration of hostilities is no secret ; but I have not found that the manner in which he has proceeded has gained him any credit, or is likely to do my administration any harm.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER FIRST REFERRED TO IN  
THE PRECEDING LETTER, WHICH THE DUKE  
DELIVERED TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT.

"THE Duke of Leinster being apprehensive that administration has often been obliged to combat the force of indiscriminate opposition, by loading the country with new expenses, in order to enable them to carry on the ordinary and most necessary business of government ; and being willing, as far as in him lies, to prevent

their being, hereafter, under the necessity of adopting such measures, equally disgraceful to government and burthensome to the people; the Duke having, besides, the highest personal respect for Lord Harcourt, and the best opinion of his intentions towards this country, is disposed to give his Excellency every support that shall be consistent with the real interests of Ireland.

“The principal measures that his Grace disapproved of in the present scheme of administration have been already decided on; and, *if they are not again to be drawn into controversy*, the Duke hopes that there will be no more occasion for a difference in opinion. *In that case* the Duke will give his support against any party attack that may be made on his Excellency’s administration; keeping himself perfectly at large to oppose any measure that he cannot reconcile to his opinion; but, at the same time, sincerely hoping that the occasion for such an opposition may not arise.”

#### COPY OF HIS GRACE’S LETTER

REFERRED TO, NO. I.

“MY LORD,—I think it proper, after the communication I had with your Lordship, to acquaint your Lordship that I mean to give as strong an opposition as in my power to the tontine bill.



Now, my Lord, I must beg leave to mention to your Lordship that, after the treatment I met with from your Lordship's secretary, Colonel Blaquiere, I must declare that I do not mean to have any political intercourse at the Castle during your Lordship's Administration, but, as Lord Harcourt, shall pay your Lordship every compliment due to your Lordship's private situation and character.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

"LEINSTER."

#### COPY OF MY LORD LIEUTENANT'S

#### ANSWER, NO. 2.

"MY LORD,—Your Grace's letter has given me very great uneasiness ; because, however concerned I may be to differ with your Grace at any time in politics, you may be assured that it must always be the furthest from my thoughts to give you the least reason to complain of any improper treatment, either from me or any body belonging to me. I was so little acquainted with any thing that had passed between your Grace and Colonel Blaquiere that could have given you offence, that I was willing to speak to the Colonel before I answered your letter ; in order to know whether he recollected any thing by which he might have given you cause to complain of his behaviour towards your Grace. But, so far from being able



to throw any light upon this affair, he is still, if possible, more at a loss than I am to form the least guess as to the cause of your complaint.

"Notwithstanding you seem determined to give the strongest opposition in your power to the tontine bill, and every other measure of my administration, I shall never be wanting in that proper regard which is due to your Grace's person and family, and am,

"My Lord,

"Your Grace's most humble and

"Obedient Servant,

"HARCOURT.

*"Dublin Castle, February 28th, 1774."*

#### THE DUKE OF LEINSTER'S REPLY

REFERRED TO, NO. 3.

"MY LORD,—As your Lordship seems to be at a loss about the cause of my letter of yesterday, I shall beg leave to explain myself more fully upon this subject. As I apprehend that my declaration to your Lordship had been misunderstood, and think myself ill used in some instances in consequence of this, I beg leave further to acquit myself of any charge of inconsistency in my conduct. When I waited on your Lordship it was from motives of personal regard and respect for your Lordship as representative of Majesty, and with a wish to support the dignity of the

Crown, consistent with the public welfare. Colonel Blaquiére has a copy of my words to which I beg leave to refer. Those that were not in writing were few. Your Lordship may please to recollect them. They were as follows. *I do not expect to be a ruler or adviser, though my rank in life does not prohibit me from either, I might say entitles me, yet my age forbids my claiming that right at present. I shall, however, expect to be informed of intended measures.* This attention I expected, though it did not please your Excellency to grant it me.

“Of this neglect I have a right to complain, as it has reduced me to the disagreeable necessity of opposing your Excellency’s measures, without giving you previous notice of my intentions; which, otherwise, I should have thought myself bound to do. The tontine bill was one instance of this; but, as to the revenue bill, I apprehend your Excellency will join in thinking I was still worse used; for I had not only no previous intimation given me, but, when my friend undertook a mediating part, Colonel Blaquiére, as ostensible minister of the House of Commons, told me in the presence of some other gentlemen that M<sup>r</sup>. Hussey’s amendment was adopted and would be received. In consequence of this declaration being echoed through the House, several members retired with me in confidence; when, to my great

surprise, I learned, next day, that Mr. Hussey's motion had been opposed by your Lordship's secretary and friends; and that Mr. Hussey could not even prevail so far as to have the matter deferred for a day, for a fuller House. You know, my Lord, I neither asked nor expected favours, and was ready even to injure myself in some degree to support your Excellency's administration; yet, notwithstanding this, I have not been treated as an independent but as a humble dependent upon the Crown. Such treatment I considered as a breach of our compact, and, therefore, I wrote to your Excellency.

"Before I conclude it may be necessary, in order to account for my opposition to the stamp act, to inform your Excellency that, when in the House of Commons, I had pledged myself to the public to oppose it; and was, therefore, bound in honour to act as I did. I still, even then, cautiously avoided any personal disrespect to your Lordship. I, perhaps, ought to have communicated to your Excellency my intentions on that head (as I acknowledge no other minister); but as the measure was in agitation previous to my declaration, I did not think it necessary.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

"LEINSTER.

*"Leinster House, March 1st, 1774."*

COPY OF COUNCILLOR SCOTT'S LETTER  
TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT, No. 4.

"MY LORD,—Your Excellency having expressed a desire to know the particulars of a transaction which passed in the House of Commons, relative to the revenue bill, and which his Grace of Leinster has made the ground of complaint against administration, I feel it my duty to state what passed upon that occasion; particularly so, as I was present, and as that bill was especially committed to my care as Counsel to the Commissioners of the revenue. I should mention that six months before the bill came into the House of Commons, it was universally known that the revenues of this country had, for want of the assistance of the military, been very ill collected; and that it was intended to introduce the writ of assistants made use of in England, whenever the revenue bill should be prepared. His Grace had, therefore, sufficient time, had that been a favourite of his, to suggest any clause or idea that he thought could qualify or improve the exercise of that writ in the collection of our revenues.

"A month, at least, before the heads of that bill were brought into the House of Commons, copies of the draft were laid before no less than six of his Majesty's servants; and, when they had

digested it, above ten copies more were circulated among persons who wished to make any alterations, or give it any opposition. In the Committee the clause for assistance was warmly debated, and a friend of the Duke's then, for the first time, proposed a clause by way of amendment, which, however, was so imperfect and indigested that it was rejected even without a question. Several alterations were made in the Committee by persons who usually oppose, as well as those who generally assist, administration. One was made by a friend of the Duke's, relative to the appointment of officers ; so that his Grace had every opportunity to oppose or amend every paragraph of this Law. He could not, however, be ignorant that it was to make one of the most considerable acquisitions and ornaments of your Excellency's administration this session.

"The day upon which the bill was reported to the House from the Committee, a friend of the Duke's introduced a long indigested, intechanical, clause ; tending, as he stated, to prevent the abuse of the writ of assistants. The secretary, Mr. Blaquiere, though it was introduced unusually late in the progress of the bill, did, nevertheless, give it the kindest attention ; wishing, in a matter the success of which was so important, to comply and accommodate as far as possible. The gentleman who introduced the clause declared that he would,

at all events, oppose the bill ; yet, so far as any part of the clause was tolerably correct and admissible, the secretary gave it his countenance and adoption. He moreover corrected, regulated, and amended, many parts of it, where he thought the ideas useful or just. Finding the whole clause unwieldy, and that it required consideration, he postponed it, together with the clause for limiting the duration of the bill to two years. Administration also insisted upon the usual extension, by adding these words, *and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament*. These two clauses, therefore, were postponed and reserved for debate, so that every gentleman who intended to oppose was thoroughly aware of the secretary's intentions. When the other parts were gone through, the secretary objected to these words at the end of the clause, introduced to restrain the operation of the writ of assistants. *Before any assistance can be had the officer applying shall obtain a warrant from a superior officer of a certain class, setting forth the particular causes and purposes of the application.*

“The secretary reasoned thus ; this will defeat the whole purposes of the writ, and, instead of being a legal protection to the revenue officer, will be a legal snare for litigation. It will retard what should be expeditious ; proclaim what should be secret ; embarrass what should be clear. His



Majesty's Council were appealed to; they were uniformly of this opinion.

"The secretary found it also inexpedient to comply, in a case where no vote could be gained by it. The gentlemen who supported the new clause were opposed to the whole bill; their intentions appearing clearly to be to have the merit and popularity of the clause if it should be adopted; to weaken or make the Writ of assistants nugatory; and still to continue to oppose the whole bill.

"It was proposed, by the secretary, to adopt the clause as a useful regulation, omitting those exceptionable words. No; the whole must be taken, or none. Upon this difference of opinion a warm debate arose, in which one of his Grace's friends hinted that the secretary had given reason to gentlemen in opposition to think that he would concur in the clause, and that, upon that expectation, many had left the House; to which he replied by shewing his consistency through every part, and by appealing to the different amendments he had made. The gentlemen's presence and opposition disproved the insinuation of their having left the House. He was answered by one of his Grace's friends, who, while he scrupled not to avow the real intentions of the clause, and seemed mortified at his disappointment, acquitted the secretary of any inconsistency of conduct in



handsome terms of acknowledgment of his propriety and candour. The secretary next had a clause prepared by the Prime Serjeant, in which he adopted every thing that was thought eligible in the rejected clause, and it passed without any debate, or, I believe, opposition.

“This is the whole of the transaction, which, above a fortnight after, is stated by his Grace in two letters to your Excellency very curious in their kind, as a ground of complaint and reason sufficient to disclaim any communication or connection with the Castle. I shall not presume to reason upon the propriety of his Grace’s menaces of future hostility, or upon the probable effects that a peevish and capricious opposition on his part may have upon your Excellency’s future administration; but this I can, with boldness and truth, affirm, that, in the transaction alluded to, his Grace had every mark of prudent compliance and reasonable concession paid to his friends and their opinions, and that if the secretary had acted *further* in compliance with them, he would have given up the title which that bill has given him to his Majesty’s favour, your Excellency’s approbation, and his own consciousness of having done right upon a very important part of the business of this session. Your Excellency will naturally connect the time and manner of his Grace’s complaint with what has since happened in the House

of Lords, and with the acrimony that he has expressed himself with upon the success of your Excellency's administration; and, if any part of that success has arisen from the fidelity and abilities of the person supposed to be most in your Excellency's confidence, that will sufficiently account for, though not justify, his Grace's displeasure against your Excellency's secretary.

"I have nothing further to add to this tiresome detail but to request your Excellency's forgiveness of its length, and to believe it arises from the warmest zeal for the success of your Excellency's administration; from an earnest desire to establish what I know to be true; and from a resolution to oppose and contradict an accusation which I feel to have been unjust.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“ March 31st, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The King has allowed me, in this private letter, to tell you what you will soon be made acquainted with officially, viz<sup>t</sup>. that his Majesty intends General Elliot to be commander in chief in Ireland; and the King was graciously pleased to say that one great reason for his preferring General Elliot was, that he had some reason to think he would be particularly agreeable to your Excellency. We are adjourned for the holidays, and I am just going out of town, and will not therefore take up any more of your Lordship’s time, but I cannot finish this without giving myself the pleasure to tell you that I have great reason to believe every difficulty is conquered with regard to our friend Blaquiere’s pursuit.

“I ever am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“PRIVATE.

“*May 25th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I received by Toole, the messenger, the honour of your private letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant. Suffer me once more to offer my warmest thanks to your Lordship for the kind and patient attention which you have given to all the variety of Irish business with which I have been under the necessity of troubling you during the whole course of this very important session. If every wish of mine has not been entirely complied with, I have reason to fear it may have been owing to a want of that particular information which I could now wish had been laid before the Council. It was only withheld upon the apprehension of being unnecessarily troublesome. Your Lordship will understand that I am referring to the custom house bill; in relation to which, having transmitted all the papers and petitions relating to it, I contented myself with stating in my dispatches only a general idea of the matter.

“This business, which became a measure of

immediate necessity, on account of the ruinous state of the custom house, threatened a number of difficulties to my administration. I saw no possibility of avoiding them except by recurring to parliament, as the best means of obtaining the sense of the nation upon the subject.

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“Accordingly, upon the fullest hearing for several days together, where the parties adverse to the measure were heard even to their most minute objections, the merits of the measure were fully proved to the satisfaction of every body; and this was reported to me upon a division of 72 to 48. I did not foresee that petitions preferred against the measure by interested proprietors of the ground rents in the neighbourhood of the old custom house, or by persons immediately benefitted in defrauding the revenue, could be reckoned of any weight, as they were counteracted by petitions from three fourths, nay a many more, of the most respectable persons in this Kingdom.

“To explain how the building of the King’s custom house becomes an object of such general concern, I must beg leave to inform your Lordship, that it is so closely connected with the building a new bridge lower down the river, as to make the measures, as it were, one and inseparable.

\* \* \* \* \*

“The Commissioners reported that the measure

would raise the revenue, by preventing of smuggling, in a sum at least of £10,000 a year. They said, moreover, that it would improve and not impair the port. It appeared, therefore, to me that, as powers must be lodged somewhere for carrying the scheme into effect, they could not be so well placed as in the hands of the Commissioners ; which, constituted as that board now stands, is, in truth, the same as placing them in the hands of government itself. I did not scruple to give my hearty acquiescence to that measure, as far as consistently I could without deciding upon it ; and, so early as in the month of November last, when Colonel Blaquiere stated to the House the state of the affairs of the nation, he did by my particular direction make provision for supplies on this account, to be granted to the amount of £12,000. This sum being blended with the other taxes would be continued, as matters of course, in the ensuing sessions, and would, more than ten times, supply the utmost expense ; which, upon any Estimate, has never exceeded £40,000.

“If I could have conceived that these particulars could have been wanted, I should have done myself a pleasure in laying them before you ; but, in truth, I have made it my study to avoid troubling your Lordship with any thing that appeared to me unnecessary ; and have strove to make my dispatches as little voluminous as possible.

“For these reasons I have avoided touching upon many points in several other bills, and I have, in some cases, the same cause to lament. The bill for prohibiting the importation of wine in small casks, which was returned by Toole, is another instance of it. It was only to avoid giving your Lordship particular trouble that I forebore to mention that the great, and indeed the only, resource and support of revenue in this country is the excise law; and that all our adjudications are determined by it. There is, I believe, scarcely an instance of recovering damages to the Crown by a jury in the court of Exchequer for many years. Our whole dependence is upon the summary proceeding under the excise law.

“This was one of the material reasons for reuniting the boards of revenue; for as the imported excise is 5 per cent. upon all commodities, the same as the customs, it has been uniformly the practice to proceed under the act of excise. Consequently, the alteration made in this bill, by transferring all processes from the excise to the custom laws, has in effect defeated the very purpose of the bill; and left the revenue exposed to those frauds which, there is too much reason to believe, will be practised between this and the next session of parliament.

“I am, &c.”



From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“June 4th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The regulations which are to be established in England with respect to the coin have created much uneasiness here, under the apprehension that they may be productive of the greatest distresses to this Country, unless some special provision is made. The proclamation which is expected to issue, will naturally operate to its fullest extent in this kingdom, although Ireland were not named. The light money, which is to be cried down in England, will cease to be current here; and, unless there is new coin to substitute in its stead, there will be no circulating specie in this kingdom. This is the general language that prevails, and, as the alarm appears to be increasing, I thought it necessary to convene such of his Majesty's Privy Councillors as were in Town, to take their opinions upon the matter. My object being to lay before your Lordship the true state of the case, as I am satisfied that any information upon a point of so much importance to the commerce and general welfare of this Kingdom, cannot be ill received by your Lordship.

“The council was assembled yesterday, and sat again to-day. It was, I think, the unanimous opinion that, unless some new specie were sent

to this Kingdom to exchange for that which is to be cried down, the greatest inconveniences and distress must follow. It seemed also to be thought that it would tend greatly to satisfy and quiet the minds of people here, if, in the Proclamation that is to issue in England, it were possible to say that Ireland was to be included in these regulations. The period for ascertaining the currency of the present guineas there might be settled in a future proclamation.

"These were the sentiments of the board, delivered to me as their opinions. I do not mean to lay them before your Lordship with any view of prescribing the means for removing the distresses which are apprehended. Your Lordship and the rest of his Majesty's servants will of course judge of and determine that matter. I should, however, be happy if any information I was able to give might lessen your trouble, and that I had any better to offer; but, upon searching for precedents of what was done in this Kingdom in the years 1695 and 1696, I had the mortification to find that all our records of that period were lost in the conflagration which happened here about the year 1721.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

*"June 19th, 1774.*

"MY LORD,—I received, last night, an account of the death of Dr. Andrews, late Provost of Dublin University.

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"The Statutes of the college lay down that this office is to be filled by an ecclesiastic. It has, however, in many instances (and notably in the late appointment of Dr. Andrews, upon the recommendation of the Duke of Bedford, then Lord Lieutenant of this Kingdom) been filled by a lay-man. The Crown has frequently exercised its power of dispensation in this matter, under the notion that a University situated in the Metropolis, requires at its head a person of greater experience and knowledge of the world than are, perhaps, always found in the character of an ecclesiastic.

"The event of Mr. Andrews' death has been so long expected as to occasion many applications to me.

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"Among the many embarrassments of my situation I have found none more difficult than to make a proper provision for Mr. Flood. Mr. Hutch-

inson, from his connection with my administration, was aware of this difficulty, and took an early occasion of expressing his wishes to do every thing in his power to remove it. Upon the event, therefore, of the Provost's death I sent Colonel Blaquiére to speak with M<sup>r</sup>. Hutchinson upon that subject. He has shewn the greatest readiness to fall in with an arrangement which would enable me to offer to M<sup>r</sup>. Flood an honourable appointment of the yearly value of £1,800; and also, at the same time, to take care of M<sup>r</sup>. Serjeant Dennis, the principal friend and first object of Lord Shannon. M<sup>r</sup>. Hutchinson has long wished to be relieved from his great weight of the business at the bar, which, however, brings him between £4,000 and £5,000 yearly. He saw perfectly the impossibility of my offering him any thing like an equivalent; but a desire to have more ease, and an opportunity of cultivating his taste for science and literature, which is a distinguished part of his character, weighed much with him in the matter. Beside which, he is possessed of a considerable estate in this country; and this disposed him to sacrifice as much in point of emolument as I could possibly desire.

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“This gentleman then appears to me to possess every qualification and accomplishment necessary for performing the duties of Provost. I can assure

your Lordship that it is not from my sense of his services, though they have been great and constant, in the House of Commons, the privy council, and the cabinet ; it is not that I have found him, without equivocation or reserve, the warm and zealous supporter of my administration and of his Majesty's government in this country, that I am now induced to recommend him for the office of Provost. What guides my choice is, that I believe him to be a man of excellent private character, of good morals, regular in his religious duties, of great learning, knowledge, and experience, and of an age when those qualifications may be exercised with the best effects in superintending the University.

"If his Majesty shall be pleased to approve of Mr. Hutchinson for Provost, I shall then beg leave to recommend Mr. Flood to be appointed Alnager of Ireland, during his Majesty's pleasure, with the same salary of £1,000 yearly which Mr. Hutchinson now enjoys. I shall also propose that Mr. Serjeant Dennis succeed Mr. Hutchinson as Prime Serjeant ; which will accomplish other arrangements in the law line highly beneficial to his Majesty's affairs, but not necessary to be now explained.

"The Alnager is now £1,800 yearly ; £800 of which Mr. Hutchinson has for a term, of which twenty-one years remain unexpired ; the purchase

of this cost that gentleman £5,000. The place of Prime Serjeant, including circuits, is £1,100 yearly; and the profits of Mr. Hutchinson's profession, including that office, are between £4,000 and £5,000 a year. The Provost's place, valuing the house highly, is about £2,000 yearly. Your Lordship will, therefore, observe that he will be a great loser in point of income. To make him some compensation, I have proposed, to which he has readily agreed, to recommend it to his Majesty to grant to two of that gentleman's younger sons the office of Searcher of the Port of Strangford, with a salary of £1,000 yearly to them, and the survivors of them, during his Majesty's pleasure. They are both minors, and not capable of holding that office as yet; but, as Mr. Hutchinson's family is numerous, I must also beg leave to ask that the grant may be also to him, as well as to his two sons and the survivors of them, during his Majesty's pleasure.

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"Your Lordship will observe that by those arrangements the great and ancient office of Alnager, which is now granted for a period of years, will be brought back to the Crown; and that government will obtain the assistance of a gentleman of powerful abilities by the acquisition of Mr. Flood. Lord Shannon will be gratified in his first and highest wishes, and the place of Provost will be

worthily and ably filled by a gentleman whose talents and experience will be of great use to government in every situation. The attainment of all those great points at the charge of £1,000 a year will, I flatter myself, be thought very good economy.

\*           \*           \*           \*           \*

“If his Majesty shall be pleased to approve of Mr. Hutchinson for the place of Provost, I request, most earnestly, that his Majesty’s pleasure may be signified to me as soon as conveniently may be; as there are many people very importunate for my recommendation to succeed to that place.

“I am, &c.”



## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

*“June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Our session of parliament which, towards the latter end of it, has been very busy, is just over, and affords me time to write to your Excellency upon some points of importance.

“In our regulations respecting the gold coin we have never lost sight of Ireland, whose interest is necessarily involved in every measure that affects the circulation of Great Britain. Two proclamations will be issued to-morrow, one for this country, and the other for Ireland, for calling in the deficient money. They will differ from one another in a very few, and those not material, expressions. There must be some alterations in the days to be appointed for calling in the money, occasioned by the distance between the two countries. The names of the persons who undertake to exchange the deficient money cannot be inserted in the Irish proclamation; and we must trouble your Excellency to appoint some persons

in Dublin, Belfast, Limerick, Cork, and Waterford, or such other places as will best suit the conveniency of Ireland, who will engage in this business on reasonable terms. It would be advisable not to nominate a greater number than are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of the publick.

“I am in hopes that the distress in Ireland for new guineas will not be near so great as is apprehended, as I have intelligence of very great quantities of them having been lately remitted from hence. To prevent, however, all possible inconvenience from the want of weighty money, the lords of the treasury have come to a resolution of sending over to the deputy vice-treasurer of Ireland 50,000 guineas of weight, Mr. Clements must authorise some person to receive them for him here, and give security to apply them according to the directions of the act of parliament; and to return hither, with all convenient speed, an equal number of old guineas, not more deficient than the allowances in the treasury order of the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July last. If this remittance shall not be sufficient for the necessities of Ireland, the treasury may, perhaps, be able to make a further remittance, as soon as they shall have received 50,000 old guineas in return for their first supply.

“That I may give your Excellency as clear an idea as possible of our plan of re-coinage, I en-

close a copy of an act of parliament which received the royal assent yesterday; together with copies of the two proclamations for Great Britain and Ireland, and of the treasury order of July last.

“Mr. Carleton, who came over to solicit the linen business on the part of Ireland, is now, I believe, in London, and would be glad to be employed by Mr. Clements to receive the new guineas, and to convey them to Ireland, if Mr. Clements has no objection to give him the necessary authority.

“Mr. Robinson sends to Mr. Blaquiere, by the messenger, a copy of the agreement which we have made with several bankers and others in this country for exchanging new for old guineas, with which it may, perhaps, be convenient for your Excellency to be acquainted.

“I am very sensible that Mr. Flood has good pretensions to as considerable an office as a vice-treasurership in Ireland, or indeed to a better. My objection to his having it, I will freely confess, is that I fear much blame here, and no small difficulty in carrying on the King's business, if I consent to part with the disposal of these offices, which have been so long and so uniformly bestowed on members of the British Parliament. I readily acknowledge that the Irish members had reason to complain when two gentlemen who had no permanent connection in Ireland were

appointed chancellor of the exchequer and master of the rolls for life. Your Excellency knows that I have been ready to remedy that grievance, even at an unreasonable expense. Your Excellency will do me the justice likewise to own that I have never troubled you with Irish pensions with a view to British purposes. I have been always so sensible of the difficulties a Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has to struggle with, and of the obligations we have to him when he executes his trust in the very distinguished manner in which your Excellency has done it; that I shall think it my duty to afford him every support in my power. But you will, I am sure, see that it is almost impossible for me to comply with your request in this instance, and will not attribute my refusal either to want of respect to Mr. Flood, or of zeal for the success of your government.

“Report says that your Excellency intends to recommend Mr. Flood to the King as successor to the late provost of Trinity College. Although that office is much better than the other, I do by no means think it above Mr. Flood’s merit; but I submit to your Excellency whether Mr. Flood, whose early principles, prejudices, and practice, have led him to oppose British government, can, with safety and propriety, be trusted with such a place for life; which, besides rendering him totally independent, gives him, in a manner, the

disposal of a Borough, and the means of forming the principles of the young nobility and gentry of Ireland. Perhaps this office may enable your Excellency to make arrangements which may satisfy Mr. Flood, but we cannot be too careful of the hands into which the provostship is put. It seems very dangerous to put it into the hands of any man who has long followed popular courses, and may be disposed to continue in them, either from inclination or to establish a reputation of consistency.

“Before I totally quit the subject of the vice-treasurership of Ireland, I must beg leave once more to recommend the memorial of the vice-treasurer’s to your Excellency’s notice and protection. By comparing the accounts Mr. Clements presented to your Excellency with those which he hath sent over to his principals, it plainly appears that the office is by no means, at present, £2,300 a year ; and that it is greatly on the decline. I own that I wish most sincerely to hear that they can be saved from the additional expense thrown upon them by the last session of parliament, and secured from any further defalcations.

“Mr. Nesbit has lately applied to me in behalf of his nephew, Mr. John Nesbit, that Mr. Knox, the Collector of Dublin, may be permitted to resign his place to him. He has stated to me the superior activity and greater application to busi-

ness of his nephew, by which he apprehends that the revenue will be much benefitted. He understands your Excellency to be well disposed towards his petition, if I consent to it. In answer to his application I laid before him the resolution taken by the government of Ireland to put an end to the resignations, that is to say to the sale of revenue places; a resolution that I entirely approved, and from whence I apprehended it would be impossible to depart, without opening a door to the return of all those mischiefs which had made the resolution necessary. He pressed me, however, to write to your Excellency, and, in compliance with his request, I trouble you on the subject. Perhaps I may not understand the case, and, if so, I shall be glad to find it in my power to oblige Mr. Nesbit; but if the case is really as I take it to be, namely, an application for leave to purchase a revenue place, I must desire your Excellency to direct a line to be written to me, confirming my opinion, and stating the mischief that must arise from the practice of selling such places. This will, I hope, enable me to put an end to Mr. Nesbit's solicitations.

"Mr. John Herbert, upon hearing that Mr. Scott is to be preferred, has renewed his application to succeed him as counsel to the commissioners of the revenue. Your Excellency has already been troubled with a letter from me in favor of this

gentleman. His kinsman, Mr. Herbert, is in our parliament, and is connected with the family of Lord Powis. On these accounts I should be glad to serve him, and shall esteem myself much obliged to your Excellency for promoting him, if he is qualified for the situation to which he aspires.

"I don't know whether I ever said a word to your Excellency in behalf of Colonel Cunningham, whom I believe to be one of your aid-de-camps. It was this gentleman's good fortune to obtain the rank of Lieut.-Colonel early, but he has remained ever since unnoticed, and still continues with the Commission and pay of a company; so that he is now less advanced than almost any other officer in the army of his standing. If your Excellency can be of any service to him, you will do a very acceptable thing, not only to your humble servant, but to many persons of consequence in Great Britain and Ireland.

"Mr. Lees will have communicated to your Excellency the conversation I had with him concerning Lord Clanbrassil, and I know that you have likewise received his complaints thro' another channel. I own I have been very much concerned at seeing him so much disappointed, as I had always the greatest reason to be thankful to him for his conduct in parliament. He brought himself into the House of Commons without the assistance of administration; has never asked a



single favor ; but has been constant in his attendance, and uniform in his support, in Parliament. All this I mentioned to Mr. Lees, and was sorry to learn from him that those places were already filled up to which he hoped to recommend. I will not repeat to your Excellency his own representation of his case, of which you have already heard too much. My wish is to find some method of removing his uneasiness. Could your Excellency oblige him either by promoting Mr. Cavendish, or the gentleman who is distributor of stamps, or by any other way, you would gratify me more than you can imagine. If you think that he has been rather too earnest in his remonstrances, let not the favor be granted to him but to me. I assure you that I am not so eager in his cause only with a view to secure his future assistance, but chiefly because I would not, on any account, appear insensible to the uniform and disinterested attachment he has shewn to government ever since I have been in his Majesty's service.

"I cannot conclude, my Lord, without repeating my congratulations upon the great difficulties you have surmounted, and the important advantages you have obtained to the publick cause in the course of the last session of parliament. I am happy in being able to assure your Excellency that no person hath expressed himself more satisfied on this subject than his Majesty. He has

authorized me to inform you that he will, in a few days, promote Mr. Blaquiere to the order of the Bath as a mark of his Royal approbation of the zeal, diligence, and ability, which Mr. Blaquiere has exerted in the conduct of his Majesty's business, and by which he has so much contributed to the success of your Excellency's measures in parliament.

"I am sorry that we could not return the bill for the new custom house. Although the reasons in the report of the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals had their due weight with the privy council, I believe I may venture to say that one principal motive which induced us to withhold our consent, was that we had received intelligence of a negotiation between the contending parties for settling the dispute in an amicable manner. As we would not willingly offend either party, we did not think it right to prevent an amicable agreement by a hasty decision. In the next session it is to be hoped that the matter will be brought forward with a more general concurrence.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. Although I cannot solicit that Mr. John Nesbit may obtain the resignation of Mr. Knox, I beg leave to recommend him to your Excellency, in case any proper opportunity of serving him should offer. In another case your Excellency will find an ostensible letter for Mr. Flood."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

*“July 2nd, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency will have learned from Mr. Lees that his Majesty has approved of every part of your arrangement except the additional salary to the Alnager’s place. The King wishes to see the present arrangement completed, if possible, without increasing the burthen upon the Irish establishment. I am sorry, on Mr. Blaquiere’s account, that your entire plan could not take place, but he may depend upon it that the King’s resolution on this point does not proceed from any personal objection. He is thoroughly sensible of Mr. Blaquiere’s merit and services ; but he is, at the same time, and not without reason, extremely unwilling to lay any fresh charge upon the Irish revenue, where the necessity of doing so is not very evident.

“Mr. Lees can inform your Excellency that Lord Townshend’s solicitations for a pension for Sir George Macartney were rejected till the last moments of his Lordship’s administration, when it was manifest that no other reward could be found for Sir George. My constant answer to Lord Townshend was that his Majesty would be well pleased to see a provision made for the Lord

Lieutenant's secretary by any offices which might become vacant during the government of his principal; but he did not approve of any additional burthen being brought upon the revenue for that purpose. Your Excellency will perceive from hence that his Majesty, in withholding his consent from the additional salary in question, does no more than act according to a rule which he had laid down long before your Excellency entered upon the government of Ireland.

"I am sorry to find that your Excellency has had so much trouble about Lord Clanbrassill. Although it is my interest and, still more, my inclination to serve him, I never thought of mentioning his complaint to the King, nor did I give him the least encouragement to apply there. As soon as I learnt from Mr. Lees that the offices for which he solicited were actually disposed of, it occurred to me that the method of conveying his wishes the most proper in itself, the most agreeable to you, and the most advantageous for him, would be by a confidential communication of them to your Excellency, through the channel of your private secretary. He could explain my sentiments much more fully and distinctly than I could hope to do by letter. In stating my reasons for wishing to see Lord Clanbrassill satisfied, he would have been able, at the same time, to express to your Excellency how averse I am from doing any

thing which can carry the least appearance of disrespect to you ; or tend, in any degree, to embarrass your government. But this method of treating the business did not suit Lord Clanbrassill's impatience. In order to shew his displeasure against me, he has absented himself from the House of Commons during all the latter part of the session. Besides pressing your Excellency through another channel, he has, I find, had an audience of the King ; and made his complaint in the closet. He did not inform me of this step when he visited me on the day before I wrote to your Excellency. As he could obtain no more from me, in that visit, than a promise to apply to you earnestly in his favour ; instead of what he wanted, viz<sup>t</sup>. a promise to insist upon the immediate removal of Mr. Cavendish, and Mr. Balfour's friend, in order to make room for the gentlemen whom he wished to recommend ; he has, as I have since found, procured a letter to be written to your Excellency expressive of the King's wishes that his requests may be complied with.

“The letter was private, and I have never seen it. I hope it is not so worded as to carry the appearance of a command, for that I am confident was never meant. His Majesty has never spoken to me upon the subject, but I will venture to say that nothing can be further from his thoughts, than to press Lord Clanbrassill's requests at the

risk of distressing your administration. My wishes are, certainly, to see him pleased; and if your Excellency can do it, and will let him know that it is in consequence of my earnest recommendation, you will greatly oblige me; but I have not the smallest idea of setting his desires in competition with the honor of your Excellency's government, or the benefit of the publick service. While I continue in office I will never erect, or suffer to be erected, on this side of the water, a court for receiving private complaints against the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. If any real injury is done we shall hear it soon enough; but I am sensible that the post of Lord Lieutenant will not be tenable, if every person whose views are disappointed in Ireland is permitted to carry his points by application to the ministers in Great Britain.

"Your Excellency's authority shall never, if I can help it, be weakened by any encouragement improperly given to discontented Irishmen. This you may depend upon, and I trust that, if any thing should ever happen that seems to contradict my professions, you will explain yourself fully with me before you believe that I can act a part so contrary to my declared sentiments. Having said this, I will only add that I am sure that your Excellency will, on your part, be always ready to attend to any proper recommendation from



hence, and to assist our measures here, when it lies in your power to do it by favours within your department.

“I find that a late declaration of mine with respect to Lord Irnham has been much mistaken in Ireland. Colonel Luttrell, among other requests which he made to me some time ago, desired that, as his father had once a promise of a step in the Irish peerage, he might now be advanced to an Earldom. This I flatly refused, saying it was impossible to recommend Lord Irnham to a mark of the royal favour, while he was in declared opposition to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This, as I guess, has been understood to mean that he should quit opposition. I was, accordingly, not a little surprised yesterday morning at seeing Lord Irnham enter my room with much satisfaction in his countenance, and many expressions of thankfulness for the attention I had paid to his son’s application in his behalf. He informed me that, as his opposition had been to *me* (who, as he conceived, had been guilty of a breach of promise towards him), and not to your Excellency (for whom he had always had the greatest regard), he had, from the moment he had received the news in a letter from Captain Luttrell, desisted from giving any further trouble in parliament, and zealously contributed to voting the address at the end of the session, *nem. con.* This he seemed to



consider as a valuable consideration which entitled him to an Earldom immediately. He added, however, many promises of attachment to government both in Great Britain and Ireland for the future. My answer to him was that, tho' there had been a great mistake with respect to my declaration to Colonel Luttrell, I should certainly be very happy to shew my regard to his Lordship; but, as to the step in the peerage, I could say nothing to it; as it would probably be very inconvenient to your Excellency's government in Ireland, if any honor of that sort should be granted on this side of the water, before the proper time should come for attending to similar applications in Ireland. This, I suppose, would be really the case, and it would be of service to me if your Excellency would, at a convenient time, express yourself in that manner to me, in a letter that I may shew to Lord Irnham.

"Before I leave this subject, I beg to mention another request of Colonel Luttrell with which I complied. It was that I should recommend one Mr. Macfarlane, a friend of his, to your Excellency for a place of Barrack-master. I shall esteem myself much obliged to your Excellency if this can be done.

"I find that Sir George Macartney's idea of changing his pension is that he is to be allowed to sell it, and not that he is to nominate another

person to hold it as his trustee. There are several objections to this proposal. It is, in fact, giving the pension for life ; and it would have bad effects both from the discreditable appearance that always accompanies such sales, and from the danger of encouraging other applications for favours of the same kind. His proposal of reviving the Constableness of Toom, to be held during pleasure, is not without great objections ; and yet it appears to me the more eligible proposal of the two. As this seems to be the proper time for placing of the Queen of Denmark upon the civil Establishment of Ireland, I will direct a King's letter to be prepared for granting to her Majesty a pension of £3,000 a year ; but I will not permit it to be sent over until I can have heard whether your Excellency has any desire to have it delayed.

“The length of this letter prevents me from writing by this post to Mr. Blaquiere, but I hope soon to pay my respects to him.

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“PRIVATE.

*“July 4th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I should be very uneasy indeed if I could charge myself either with want of attention or civility to Lord Clanbrassill, for whom no one can have a greater respect than I have. I don't know how to give a more convincing proof of it than by shewing my readiness to make a provision for the person his Lordship recommended to be distributor of stamps, whenever a proper opportunity offers. This proposal will, I flatter myself, be received with the same candour that it is offered, as it may fully answer Lord Clanbrassill's purpose. Your Lordship would not wish me to do anything inconsistent with my feelings of justice, and, as I cannot remove either Mr. Cavendish or Mr. Brabazon without a manifest hardship and unkindness, I judge it more proper, on all accounts, to make some other provision for the person recommended by his Lordship. It has not happened, since I came to Ireland, that any nobleman or gentleman of rank and fortune has put in a claim either to the appointment of a new created office, or to a patentee place in right of its

being in his town or neighbourhood. The difficulties which a Lord Lieutenant has to encounter would make such claims totally inadmissible, and would put it out of the power of government to confer favours on those who are best entitled to them.

“As your Lordship mentioned Mr. Waller and Mr. Shiell in one of your former letters, I should do them injustice if I did not acknowledge the propriety of their behaviour on all occasions, and the steady support they gave my administration. It was necessity, not choice, that obliged me to leave Mr. Waller out of the new commission for re-uniting the boards. When the number of clerks was reduced, my regard for Mr. Waller, and my desire to oblige his family, were my motives for continuing his brother in his employment, preferably to some others who had as good a right as he had to be continued in that office. Upon the whole, I am inclined to believe that Mr. Waller has no doubt of my kind intentions towards him, whenever it may be in my power to assist him.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

“*July 8th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I dreaded the late Provost's death, foreseeing many inconveniences that would

result from it. By taking a decisive part, and by falling in with the proposals which Mr. Hutchinson made to government, I had a prospect of making such an arrangement as his Majesty might approve of, and, at the same time, might gratify Mr. Flood. I have not had the good fortune to succeed in respect to Mr. Flood, yet I have still the satisfaction to find that the arrangement was approved of; and that I had, in a manner, anticipated your Lordship's wishes, before there was a possibility of communicating them to me.

"Mr. Flood is greatly offended that the Provostship was not offered to him. I saw him yesterday, and he complained most bitterly of the treatment he had received from government, laying the greatest stress on the promise Mr. Blaquiere had made him that he should have the first great office that became vacant. I observed to Mr. Flood that what had been done for the Prime Serjeant put it into my power to make an offer to himself that I was in hopes might have been acceptable to him. That I was also enabled to promote Serjeant Dennis to the rank of Prime Serjeant, and to make some further removes for gentlemen who were well entitled to the favour of the Crown. Mr. Flood took occasion to set forth his important services, which he thought very justly entitled him to the preferment which had been given to Mr. Hutchinson; though he did

not declare whether he would have taken it if it had been offered to him. He laid great stress on the difficulties and obstructions which he could have thrown in our way, had he been disposed to be adverse and to put himself at the head of the Opposition ; which, insignificant as it was latterly, would have been very formidable in the earlier part of the session, under the guidance and direction of an experienced leader.

“In answer to what I had said of M<sup>r</sup>. Hutchinson’s resigning two good employments in order to be Provost, he observed that he had made as great, if not a greater, sacrifice, meaning his popularity and reputation which he had risked in support of government. He said that he was now treated with a degree of contempt that determined him never more to have any concerns with the Castle that paid so little regard to engagements. He conceived he had been treated extremely ill by Lord Frederick Campbell, in Lord Townshend’s time, but much worse by M<sup>r</sup>. Blaquiére in my administration.

“He added that it would be a lesson for every body to be very cautious for the future in their dealings with ministers. He said he could make it appear that he had saved the Crown more than five times the value of the favour he asked ; that I could not but be very sensible of the very different behaviour that might have been

expected from many gentlemen if things had taken a different turn in Parliament.

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“He saw himself now reduced to a most humiliating and perplexed state, either to become a humble suppliant for favour, or to give up all hopes of it, and to submit tamely to every species of ridicule and contempt. In answer to all this, and more to the same effect, I told Mr. Flood that he had not so much as mentioned a wish to be placed at the head of the University either to Mr. Blaquiere or to me, and that it would have answered no end to have made him an offer of what would not have been in my power to get for him.

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“I said that I thought the faith of government was pledged to make an ample provision for him; and, if it was not done, I should be ready to acknowledge he had been deceived and ill used. Disagreeable, my Lord, as it was to me to hold this kind of language, I chose rather to submit to it than to have made him a tender of the Provostship of the College, that would have placed him in a station of independence, and given him the opportunity of becoming really extremely troublesome and formidable to this and all future administrations. I plainly foresaw that by recommending Mr. Hutchinson to the Provostship it re-



duced me to the necessity of urging Mr. Flood's request to be one of the Vice Treasurers. Notwithstanding all the objections which, I am well aware, may be made to such a concession, yet, my Lord, I do most seriously recommend it to your Lordship's consideration, as a matter of the highest concern to his Majesty's government. Your Lordship knows what my sentiments were some time ago. I was less importunate upon the subject than I am at present, because I thought the circumstances were very different from what they now are. I stated to Mr. Flood all the difficulties that must occur, even if his Majesty's consent could be obtained. I reminded him that he could not suppose Mr. Ellis would do any thing to accommodate him; and that Lord Clare and Mr. Jenkinson might be very unwilling to consent to any arrangement that might affect their own situations. In short, I did what I could to draw off his attention from his favourite object, the Vice Treasurership; but all to no purpose. I was obliged to act with the greatest caution in this affair, lest he should have fixed his views upon some employment for a term of years, or for life; which would have been still more liable to objections than what he now desires.

"Your Lordship will be pleased to observe, that by recommending Mr. Flood to be Provost, I might, in some measure, have fulfilled my en-

gement with him, and thus thrown all the difficulties on English government. I foresaw, however, the many inconveniences that were likely to ensue, and I chose rather to risk my own administration, than to be wanting, on such an occasion, in my duty to the Crown.

“There are times when every thing is to be risked rather than involve government in certain difficulties. This must be considered as one of those critical moments, on which a great deal hereafter may depend. How far it may concern me is a matter of very little importance, in comparison of the effect it may hereafter have on the affairs of this Kingdom. It is submitted to your Lordship whether it may not be advisable to secure M<sup>r</sup>. Flood, almost at any expense, rather than to risk an opposition, which, conducted by a man of his abilities, may render the success of administration more precarious the next session, a state of things which might endanger, perhaps defeat, some of the capital arrangements that have lately taken place, and which now stand in need of all the support that government can give them to make them complete and durable. I have only to request your Lordship not to consider me personally any further than as a part of this government. As long as I am able to support a character of honour and integrity, in the few instances where the credit of government is

pledged, I may hope to be a useful servant of the Crown. Should it, however, unfortunately appear that I am unable to make good such engagements as the circumstances of this government may have required, I fear it may be out of my power to do his Majesty any further service in this Kingdom.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“July 9th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I no sooner received your Excellency's letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, than I gave immediate directions that a proclamation should be prepared according to your Excellency's desire. This proclamation was signed yesterday by his Majesty, will be inserted in this night's Gazette, and, I hope, delivered to your Excellency at the same time with this letter. The further days appointed for crying down the guineas under 5, 6, are August the 5<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>. We could not postpone the latter period without great inconvenience and danger. If a longer space of time should be allowed for the currency of these pieces in Ireland, after they cease to be current in England, it is obvious that great quantities of light money will be exported from hence to Ireland; more time will in fact be given for their currency here than is intended; and, consequently, much greater opportunities afforded of defrauding the revenue. Having fixed the latter of the two periods to September 5<sup>th</sup>, we could not defer the first beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, as it

seemed proper to allow a complete month for the business of exchanging. The treasury, as your Excellency will perceive by the act of parliament, has credit for no more than £250,000, for all the expenses and losses occasioned by the re-coinage, and therefore we think we cannot prudently issue above 50,000 Guineas at once for the service of Ireland. But, as fast as the deputy vice treasurer sends light guineas to England, he shall have an equal number of weighty pieces in return. If this method will not supply Ireland with a sufficient supply, or with sufficient dispatch, your Excellency will be so good as to apprise me of it, and you may depend upon it that the lords of the treasury will do every thing in their power for the accommodation of Ireland.

“I have directed the warrant for issuing the money to M<sup>r</sup>. Nesbit to be got ready, so that the guineas may be delivered and sent off as soon as ever the recognizance arrives.

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“July 15th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I beg leave to make my sincerest acknowledgments to your Lordship for signifying to me his Majesty’s approbation of my conduct. It is what I have ever been ambitious of deserving, and it will be the study of my life to deserve the continuance of it.

“I am sorry to observe that the Vice Treasurers’ Offices have suffered so considerably ; but I am still in hopes that the loss will not be quite so heavy as was apprehended. I need not acquaint your Lordship that the many difficulties, which I had to surmount during the course of the last session of parliament, made it impracticable for me to compass every thing. The interest of the Vice Treasurers was by no means overlooked ; but the opportunity of serving them seemed less favourable than, I hope, may be expected during the next session ; when, I flatter myself, we shall have little more to ask than the money bills, and some additional regulations for the improvement of the revenue.

“From daily experience, I am now more and more

convinced of the expediency of putting an end to the sale of revenue employments ; and though, in this instance, it may put it out of your Lordship's power to oblige Mr. Nesbit, and make it impossible for me to shew that regard for Mr. John Knox which he really deserves ; yet, I flatter myself that these gentlemen will be candid enough to submit to a measure, which was very wisely adopted to prevent the many inconveniences and abuses arising from the sale of offices.

“ It is very uncertain whether I shall be able to prevail upon the solicitor general to succeed Mr. Justice Malone, without acquiescing to such terms as may not be advisable for government to grant. If I can bring this affair to bear, I may have an opportunity of doing his Majesty a most essential piece of service, in recommending to that office Mr. Scott, the council to the revenue board, a very able man, who is very high in his profession, a man of Parliamentary abilities, and approved integrity.

“ I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ MOST PRIVATE.

“ *July 20th, 1774.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—In a letter which I had the honour of writing to your Lordship, about three



weeks ago, I proposed to make a provision for one of Lord Clanbrassill's friends; equal in value, if not better, than that of the distributor of stamps. When his Lordship considers the fairness of the proposal, and my readiness to oblige him, it is to be hoped he will be satisfied; and not insist any longer on the removal of Mr. Cavendish and Mr. Brabazon; to which it is impossible for me ever to submit, without letting down the dignity of my station, to the manifest prejudice of his Majesty's government.

"Your Lordship sees Lord Irnham's affair in the true light. Any new creation, or even promotion, in the Peerage, now, or, indeed, at any time before the latter end of the next session of parliament, would make so much uneasiness, and open the door to so much solicitation, that the consequences might be very serious.

"Any one of less experience than your Lordship in things of this kind, would be surprised to hear of the many very unreasonable applications that are frequently made here for Peerage, and promotions in the Peerage. I have uniformly resisted many in the first instance; and I have endeavoured to satisfy those who, in Lord Townshend's administration, were recommended for the Peerage, that it would be highly improper to take any further steps whatever, before the end of this parliament.

“If there is any mode of gratifying Sir George Macartney, without reviving the constableness of the castle of Toom, I believe it will be less liable to objections. When any method can be thought of that may accommodate Sir George, without drawing government into a scrape, your Lordship shall be apprized of it, that I may receive your commands before any further step is taken.

“Whenever his Majesty shall be pleased to issue his letter for placing the Queen of Denmark on the civil establishment of Ireland, for a pension of £3,000 per annum, the necessary steps shall be taken here for carrying his Majesty's pleasure into immediate execution.

“I wait the determination of Mr. Flood's affair with the greatest anxiety ; because I am persuaded that a great deal may hereafter depend on the event.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Colonel Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Bond-street, facing Strafford-street,  
“ August 2nd, 1774.*

“MY LORD,— . . . The kind concern you take about me claims, and has indeed, my warmest and most *grateful* acknowledgments; they will be eternal with me for all your goodness, if there is hereafter any remembrance to be had of any thing that has passed before.

“The difficulties which General Elliot raises are indeed of a very serious nature. I did not think him so unaccommodating. Your Excellency sees them in their proper light; and it does not surprise me that these things altogether sicken you of your situation a little. For my part, I see not the least colour of propriety in what the General desires. I will go farther, and declare them impossible; and that, unless your secretary had a commission to be secretary also to the Commander in chief, no orders of yours in the military line could be promulged upon the footing on which he desires business to be conducted. It is, besides, contrary to any practice ever held in the Kingdom. I think General Elliot might be satisfied

with the powers and authorities held by Lords  
Roths, Molesworth, &c. My private opinion is  
he does not like the station.

“ I am respectfully ever and devotedly

“ Your Lordship’s faithful and

“ obliged servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“MOST PRIVATE.

*“August 4th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—By Monday next, I am in hopes we shall be able to send over 50,000 guineas, 5, 3, in return for the 50,000 new guineas that were sent hither. Notwithstanding all the precautions that were taken by government, and the timely supply of new guineas that was obtained by your Lordship’s kind assistance and readiness to relieve our wants, many parts of this Kingdom have already been greatly distressed. More especially has this fallen upon the manufacturing parts, where the linen trade has been at a stand for want of a sufficiency of specie to carry on business. This inconvenience, however, will only be felt until a supply of weighty guineas find their way into the country, and begin to circulate. We may hope soon to be relieved from these difficulties. By a return made by the different collectors, it appears there are more than 50,000 guineas of the 5, 3, in their hands. Before the end of this month there is reason to believe the whole amount of the

5, 3, in the hands of government will not be less than 100,000 guineas, over and above the sum of 50,000 which will be sent off on Monday. Without presuming to ascertain the number of light guineas in this Kingdom, and consequently the precise sum we may have occasion for, I believe I may venture to assure your Lordship that less than 200,000 guineas will scarce answer all the purposes of trade, and supply the wants of the public.

“I have been the more particular on this occasion, as I imagine your Lordship may, by being timely apprized of our wants, be better able to afford us the most seasonable relief; as I have hitherto experienced in every instance.

“Upon examining the nature of the Alnager's place, it appears always to have been held for years or lives, and that, therefore, I could not dispose of it on any other terms. This makes it necessary for me to trouble your Lordship with a request to obtain his Majesty's letter for Mr. Blaquiere's holding the Alnager for 31 years.

“I am, &c.”

Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*August, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Some extraordinary publications that I have seen, within these few days, in

the public papers, inviting the citizens of Dublin to subscribe towards contesting his Majesty's rights to the Phoenix Park, make it necessary for me to press upon your Lordship the speedy execution of a grant of a few acres thereof. Were it not for these publications, I should have thought it unnecessary to have thus troubled your Lordship, after what I had already mentioned upon that subject.

"The Phoenix Park, the undoubted property of the Crown, has been, for some time past, treated rather as a neglected common and galloping place for all sorts of rabble, than as a Royal Park where the better classes of people, and invalids, should have been permitted to exercise in. This abuse, like most others, has gradually changed its form from permission to a claim. This claim it is endeavoured to establish by a general stock purse, with the object of defeating any grant or inclosure that hath been, or may be hereafter, made by the Crown. Should this matter be acquiesced in, his Majesty's rangers, keepers, bailiffs, and all other officers whatsoever, must not only be materially injured, but the right of the Crown to the park itself must be rendered precarious, or of little use, and an expensive burthen.

"I, therefore, hope, in order to prevent any inconveniences which may arise from a supposed acquiescence in the present clamorous usurpation,



that your Lordship will think it not imprudent to pass a grant to Sir John Blaquiere, as bailiff; and that you will be pleased to lay my humble request before his Majesty for that purpose.

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 7th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—General Harvey was with me to-day for two hours ; and I shall confess that I was glad to see him, because, in spite of all that has passed, I still think him a man of truth and probity.

“With an apology that would please and satisfy your Excellency, he told me that he came to me by advice of the King. He had wished to avoid engaging in a matter foreign from his concerns ; but his Majesty having expressed a desire that he should stir, made him engage to accommodate discordant friends, and to adjust this matter, so that the service might not suffer. The King wished a Commander in chief. Your Excellency, his Majesty knew, wished to have one also. The opposition alone came from Mr. Blaquiere. This was the amount of the King's sentiments, though by no means the words of the General. I am obliged to state them to your Lordship, because I will state the truth.

“After talking two hours, I was at a loss to find

any complaint of Mr. Elliot's which bore even the shadow of justice.—'He was not made a Privy Counsellor.'—Your Excellency knows, and so does he, that on the very day of his arrival I notified to him your intentions of calling him to the council board. The rest amounted to a kind of a general dissatisfaction at his limited powers; together with an implied jealousy of the secretary, and with some other slight charges of inattention in me. I told Harvey that we were dwelling upon trifles. The point of dispute was the furtherance of the King's military service. Your Excellency, I said, had this as much at heart as the General; and it was a point upon which your secretary did not seem likely, in the height of his impudence, to hold different views to, nor to be capable of being an enemy of, the profession to which he had been for all his lifetime attached. The Commandership in chief, I said, was an office of your own creation; your secretary had warmly advocated the creation of it in the House; the Commander in chief had been named for the furtherance of your own schemes.

\* \* \* \* \*

"What then was to be the avail of obstructing the designs of an officer so appointed? It was well known that your Excellency had but one object, namely, that of promoting the King's service, \* \* \* and that you wished to

do every thing which might facilitate the General's work.

\* \* \* \* \*

"You meant not to abridge the necessary authority of the General, but to adhere, in the official business, to the practice of ages, from which you could not depart. These forms, I did take the liberty to insist upon, could in no way affect the position of the General, unless he meant to arrogate to himself the supreme and independent command of the Irish Army, independently of Irish Government.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I think General Harvey was satisfied, because I think, if he had had any doubts he would have expressed them.

"I am, &c."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*"October 13th, 1774.*

"MY LORD,—Having nothing to do this day I waylaid my Lord Rochford, in his passage to court, and found that the King had yesterday spoken to him on the subject of General Elliot's complaint. My Lord had told his Majesty of my having signified to the General, on the very day of his arrival, your Excellency's intentions of making him a privy counsellor; which, by what I

could discern, seemed a surprise to the King, who must have heard it as a complaint that he was not made one.

“Lord Rochford was in such a hurry that I could not well make out all that had passed. His Majesty had said he wished his Commander in chief should have the same powers Lord Rothes had, or something to that effect. On my part, I said that I had told the General you meant he should have every power any general ever had had.

\*           \*           \*           \*           \*

“Upon this business I cannot, for my life, guess what the General means. I shall hear more of it shortly, and will, of course, immediately let you know it. Lord Rochford told me too, but all upon the gallop, that the King had ordered General Rich to be turned out of his government of Londonderry, for contumacy to the judgment of a court martial; and that the government was to be sequestered in the hands, I think, of Mr. Conway, for the discharge of some military demand which he refused to satisfy.

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Sir John Blaquiere :—

“ October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1774.

“DEAR SIR,—I am very much concerned to find that it has been thought necessary to lay before his Majesty the difficulties and *punctilios* that have occurred between two persons (I may presume to say) equally zealous in his Majesty's service, and equally impressed with sentiments of regard and esteem for each other.

“Can I have the most distant wish to lessen the Commander in chief in the opinion of the public, or to make the least encroachment upon that power and authority which are so essentially necessary for his Majesty's service? Have I not given proofs, not only of my respect for the station, but of my very sincere esteem for the honourable gentleman who so worthily fills it?

“I wish to conform, as far as possible, to what has been the practice in former administrations. The Commander in chief, if I am not misinformed, used to lay before the Lord Lieutenant all memorials relating to the army business; and used to issue all orders to the army, except such as related to money matters, which ever have, and

ever must be, conveyed through the channel of the secretary's office. As this has been the constant practice, I shall uniformly adhere to it, till such time as I receive his Majesty's commands to the contrary.

"I shall be ready, on all occasions, to pay the greatest deference to the opinion of the Commander in chief (whose experience and judgment will have great weight with me), as far as is consistent with the management and direction of the important trust that has been put into my hands, and for which I am responsible. At the same time, I can never consent to make a surrender of the patronage of the army, without betraying the trust with which his Majesty has honoured me. Such a surrender would make it absolutely impracticable to carry on the government, in a country where all the favours of the Crown are scarcely sufficient to gratify the importunities of those who apply for them.

"If it should become necessary to explain my sentiments or to clear up any doubts that may remain in the General's mind, you are at liberty to make the proper use of this letter."



From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

*“ October 19th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—In the list of military successions, herewith transmitted to be laid before his Majesty, your Lordship will observe that I have recommended Lieutenant Pakenham, of the 54<sup>th</sup>, for the company in the 33<sup>rd</sup> regiment of foot on this establishment vacant by the death of Captain Sackville Turner.

“This gentleman is one of the representatives for the County of Longford; who, with his brother, Lord Longford, very warmly and steadily supported his Majesty’s government here during the last session of Parliament. My Lord Longford is a man of ability, an able speaker in the House of Lords, and greatly respected in this country. And, in addition to these considerations, I had, from motives of personal regard and esteem, given his Lordship an early assurance of my earnest recommendation to his Majesty of his brother for a company. From the particular circumstances, however, attending every vacancy that has happened since my arrival in this kingdom, I have hitherto been prevented from laying Mr. Pakenham at his Majesty’s feet for that mark of his Royal favour. In the present instance, in the 33<sup>rd</sup> regiment no technical difficulties appear to present themselves. . . .

“Therefore, my dear Lord, I must desire that your Lordship will be pleased to make it my humble and earnest request to his Majesty that he will be graciously pleased to promote Lieutenant Pakenham to the vacant company in that regiment.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Mr. Lees.

FROM Mr. Lees to Sir John Blaquiere:—

(By Earl Harcourt's permission.)

*"October 16th, 1774.*

"MY DEAR SIR,—My Lord Lieutenant, with his usual kindness, condescended to shew me your letter to him upon the conversation that passed between you and General Harvey. I should do the highest injustice to his Excellency if I withheld from you a single circumstance of his conduct and feelings upon the subject of the patronage of the army, and of the discontents which his firmness to oppose any intended usurpation may be supposed to have created upon that head. His Excellency declined to consider the subject upon narrow and personal grounds; he considered it unnecessary to justify your conduct against a charge of having endeavoured to circumscribe General Elliot's rights, or to obstruct his wishes; or of having held opinions upon military or other subjects different from his own. He knew your personal attachment to the General, and traced your regard for that gentleman through a variety of acts and expressions. He has so often discountenanced the shabby expedient of insinuating

a difference of sentiment between the Lord Lieutenant and his confidential secretary, that he seemed surprised at the folly of repeating what has been so often exploded. His Excellency has, therefore, applied himself, in his letter of the 14<sup>th</sup>, solely to the topic of complaint. He considers his Majesty as the Commander in chief of his own armies; and, as his Majesty's representative in this Kingdom, he holds it his duty not to give up the patronage of the army to any but the King's representative. Could his Excellency think himself justified in so pernicious an innovation, General Elliot would be personally to his Excellency much the most agreeable man to hazard the experiment upon.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The patronage of the army in this country has never been surrendered into the hands of a Commander in chief.

\* \* \* \* \*

"It is a proposition that strikes his Excellency as big with mischief to the King's government, and as peculiarly inconsistent with the idea of a resident Lord Lieutenant. Could his Excellency suppose this enterprizing alteration to take place, he sees the following conclusion as inevitable. The Commander in chief would be a military Lord Lieutenant; and would become, whether in or out of Parliament, a great and

formidable parliamentary character. He would be worshipped by almost every man in either House of Parliament as the source of patronage and provision. Particularly would this be the case in a country not quite so remarkable for industry as it is for the number of younger sons and younger brothers; in a country where the hopes of an ensigncy induces a lord or a squire to expend ten times its value in parliamentary expenses.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Indeed, that a resident Lord Lieutenant cannot possibly submit to be curtailed or controlled by a Commander in chief seems self evident.

\* \* \* \* \*

“At this time especially it is peculiarly inexpedient to weaken the Chief Governor’s hands, which would be the necessary consequence of dividing his powers.

\* \* \* \* \*

“My Lord Lieutenant is decisively of opinion that the discipline and management of a great army in Ireland, the forming them to action, and regulating them to the will and wisdom of the sovereign for his royal purposes and the advantage of the State, is an ample and sufficient task for a man of the most extensive military knowledge and experience, such as the Commander in chief is expected to be. The power of rewarding and

punishing must rest in the hands of the Crown. Whoever the King, in his wisdom, may entrust with the administration of this Kingdom, ought to be the dispenser of this power; otherwise, the Commander in chief, and not the Lord Lieutenant, will be, in effect, Chief Governor of the Kingdom.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“PRIVATE.

“*October 20th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—If your Lordship had not acquainted me that his Majesty had made his arrangements, in respect to a new governor of Londonderry and Culmore Fort; I should have taken the liberty of requesting that that government should be bestowed on General Elliot. It would have been a gracious mark of Royal favour to a very deserving officer, until some more distinguished mark of the King’s gracious bounty might have been accorded.

“However inadequate the stipend of the Commander in chief may be to the expenses that are unavoidable, I must do the general the justice to say that I never heard him utter the least complaint on that account. Your Lordship’s letter precludes me from saying any more on the subject. If I have gone too far you will be so good as to excuse me.

“I am, &c.

“P.S. I have desired Sir John Blaquiére to wait on your Lordship with this letter.”



## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 21st, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—It was my first business this morning to go with your Lordship’s letter in my hand to Lord Rochford, that he might see, from your own words, what your Excellency’s sentiments upon this subject were. He had had no opportunity, I find, of laying before his Majesty my letter of yesterday, and he expressed a very earnest desire that I should make the addition to it which your Lordship will see scored at the end of the second paragraph. It seems the King has pointedly mentioned it to Lord Rochford that he wished General Elliot to have the same powers, and as full, as those that were exercised by Lord Rothes. I know your Excellency’s sentiments upon this head, and that you never had a wish to abridge the authority. I, therefore, did not hesitate to add the above words,

\* \* \* \* \*

“When Lord Rochford had read your letter, he desired by all means that he might shew it to the King. Sir Stannier, who is your Excel-

lency's devoted servant, highly recommended it also.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Your Excellency's declarations made, as Lord Rochford tells me, a great impression upon the King.

\* \* \* \* \*

"In reading my letter, the King started at the expression touching the patronage of the army. You will find it towards the latter end, and at the words *to deprive him even of the semblance of the patronage of the army*; his Majesty said it never was intended by any means. General Elliot, I hear, talks high, and his Majesty sees it. His Majesty told Lord Rochford who, I believe, was endeavouring to do me a good turn, that we were both good sort of men, and were both traduced in the opinion of the world: that the general was said to wish to decline the command in Ireland; and of me it was reported that I wished to prevent the appointment of any Commander in chief at all; but that he knew them both to be groundless. He concluded with desiring that the general and I might accommodate matters between us; that any breach upon the occasion might be prejudicial to his service; and that he should think it would lay at our doors; or to that effect. I have, however, very particularly acquainted Lord Rochford and Harvey that I cannot treat with General Elliot,

or any body else, on a subject of this importance, whilst it is my misfortune to be at such a distance from your Excellency. The general is, besides, my Lord, outrageous in his demands; and if you had seen, as I have done, a letter he wrote yesterday to General Harvey, you would, even yourself, be put to some difficulty to answer it. He makes a plain demand, though not so expressed in the words, to cut off the Lord Lieutenant from all communication with his administration, by desiring an immediate correspondence in writing with him, and refusing to receive his pleasure through any other mean. In this manner, he would deprive the Lord Lieutenant of the only security the constitution has given him, that of placing his secretary between himself and the people.

“The general desires to be put on the same footing with the Commander in chief in England. Even Harvey was talking to me the same nonsense, to-day; but they forget, or they don't know, that the Lord Lieutenant is captain general and commander in chief of the forces in Ireland. Elliot may be an efficient man; but the Earl of Harcourt is responsible to the King and to the public, for every military as well as civil measure that may be transacted. I thought General Harvey was convinced and satisfied. Lord Rochford, to our misfortune, is gone into the country, and does not return for a fortnight. I must not, however

forget to recite one anecdote that passed in a conversation between him and General Elliot, to-day. It was upon the subject of being made a privy counsellor. My Lord told him, 'Why, General, that is done.' 'Yes,' replied the General, 'it is, but I am not sure that I ought not to have reparation made to me for its having been put off so long,' or words to that effect."

## Letter from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt:—

*“ October 22nd, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—Yesterday (and not before) the King was pleased to direct Lord Rochford to call on me, relative to the doubts I entertained, and which your Excellency had allowed me to lay before his Majesty, as to how far the Commander in chief and the Lord Lieutenant’s office could interfere with each other.

“I endeavoured, in the most concise manner, to explain the difficulties which your Excellency, with condescending goodness and patience, so often permitted me to enlarge upon. Lord Rochford seemed to be master of the subject ; but declined further discussion for the present, owing to his being engaged in a multiplicity of business, and having his carriage at the door ready to set out for the country. He does not return in less than ten days at soonest. This, my Lord, it is easily imagined, will be a period of anxiety for me ; when it is considered how much my private happiness depends upon some mode being adopted by which I may enjoy uninterruptedly your Excellency’s confidence in the military department. What has been proposed I hope will be thought

reasonable, more especially as it is grounded upon precedent in the Duke of Bedford's time ; I have now, luckily, recovered an example, indisputably genuine, amongst some papers of Lord Rothes'<sup>a</sup>. This contains his Grace's answers to several of my Lord's occasional proposals, paragraph by paragraph, with the Duke's initial at bottom. Should your Excellency please to approve this method of proceeding, I believe it will confine each department within its proper sphere, tend to the dispatch of military business, and contribute much to the maintenance of good order and discipline.

"On this, and every occasion, I resign myself to your Excellency; only wishing to become an instrument, not totally useless, in a system of government which has so happily succeeded to the advancement of his Majesty's service in Ireland.

"I have the honour to be, with profound respect, &c."

<sup>a</sup> Lord Rothes was Commander in chief when the Duke of Bedford was Lord Lieutenant.

## Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 24th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—. . . In the conversation which I had with the General, he said in warmth, though by no means in anger, ‘That he meant to separate, ‘entirely and absolutely, the military from every ‘other department; that he would have the last ‘words with the Lord Lieutenant upon all military ‘points, uncontrolled and unconnected with any ‘departments or any persons whatsoever.’ A declaration of this kind, so new and extraordinary, made, I suppose, a visible impression upon my countenance. The General asked me if I did not understand this to be the purport of what he had demanded in his letter to Harvey. I confessed to him that, to me, it appeared to have a tendency that way; it might imply it, but certainly did not so positively express it. The General replied, ‘This is my meaning, and if I am called upon for ‘an explanation, I shall say so.’

\* \* \* \* \*

“Wishing to shew the General how little it could be desired to obstruct him in his business, much less to do business without him; I instanced,



by a parallel of your late proceedings, how very little you could mean to obtrude parliamentary influence upon him. I obliged him to observe, that in *one* instance of promotion only, had you allowed a powerful recommendation to operate, to the exclusion of considerations of military merit or length of service alone.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I recounted, this morning, the whole transaction to Lord North. He was rather shy in speaking his mind ; which appeared, however, to me, full of the importance of the subject. He assented, whenever he did speak, to the steps you had taken ; disrelishing the General's claims, and every idea of parting with the patronage of the army. He did not, however, rightly understand, I think, at first, that any thing so very important could be appendent upon the rights, forms, and exclusive mode of doing business which General Elliot insisted upon. Lord Rochford advised me to speak to Lord North. Both Lord Rochford and Lord North are your Lordship's good friends."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

" *October 26, 1774.*

"Allow me, my dear Lord, to express the exultation I feel at your having recommended General Elliot to the vacant Government of Londonderry.

Upon every step you show your generosity and greatness of mind. I am sure it will do you credit with his Majesty and all mankind. There never was an occasion which called for greater exertion of judgment, and you have seized it.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to General Elliot :—

*" October 28th, 1774.*

"DEAR SIR,—You cannot be more desirous than I am to remove every difficulty and clear up every doubt that may, in any way, obstruct his Majesty's service. Such service can never be carried on effectually, if there is not a right understanding between the Lord Lieutenant and the Commander in chief.

"In a letter that I lately wrote to Sir John Blaquiere, I gave him very freely my sense of the mode of carrying on the service conformable to the practice of former times; without lessening the credit and influence of the Lord Lieutenant, and without lowering the rank and character of the Commander in chief.

"It is evident, from the office books, which I must beg leave to consider as the very best authority, that all military memorials, except such as relate to money matters, ought, in the first instance, to go through the channel of the Commander in chief. It then becomes his duty to lay them before the Lord Lieutenant, and after receiving his commands, to convey them to the

several persons from whom the memorials have come. The Lord Lieutenant, on the other hand, signifies to the office the several orders that he has given, that they may be carried into execution in the usual official mode. The office can receive orders only from the Lord Lieutenant, and that for a very plain reason, because accountable to him only for any neglect.

“In laying the several memorials before the Lord Lieutenant, the Commanner in chief will have frequent opportunities of doing justice to the merit of the most worthy and deserving officers. His opinion will always have great weight, and will ever be attended to, as far as is consistent with his Majesty’s service in general. For this service the Lord Lieutenant is responsible to the Crown. The right of a Lord Lieutenant to recommend to his Majesty those who may be deemed the objects of his royal favour can never be departed from. A Lord Lieutenant divested of that right, would be no longer in a condition to serve the Crown, as it would deprive him, in a great measure, of the means of obliging ; and, consequently, of that support so necessary for carrying on the measures of government.

“This, sir, as nearly as I can recollect (for I have not the copy of my letters by me), was the purport of my letter to Sir John Blaquiere. I have reason to think it may have been laid before

the King, and I flatter myself his Majesty will find that I have not claimed or assumed any new or unusual powers. I desire simply to conform to the practice of former times, as the surest mark to steer by. I have not yet seen the notes that were found amongst the late Lord Rothes' papers; to which, however, I am ready to pay all due deference, in every instance that does not clash with what has been the usual mode of proceeding.

"If I have been wanting, on any occasion, in not showing you all the regard and attention that are due to your private character as well as to your public station, I must, indeed, have been very unfortunate; and I must have failed in the very instance where I wished most to convince you of the personal esteem and friendship of,

"Dear Sir, &c."

## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ November 8th, 1774.*

“ I FORGOT, my Lord, to mention that General Elliot complained to me this morning, bitterly, of the latter paragraph in your letter which charged him, as it were, with having an ungrateful sense of your civilities. I told the general I was not surprised at it, for the current report throughout the town, in all companies, has been that General Elliot did not think he had been well treated, or well received, in Ireland. For my own part, though I could not think he had said so, and really did not believe he had, I had never chose to engage in a controversy upon the subject. I thought it not only probable, but certain, that the report must have reached you. As I believe he intends writing to your Excellency upon this very point to-night, I have judged it not improper to let you know what passed, this day, upon it.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letters from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt :—

“ *November 8th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—Your Excellency's letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> October does me too much honour, by communicating to me the general sense of a paper at this time before his Majesty. Of this paper I had not the least knowledge. Therefore, being so circumstanced, it becomes me now to receive this information with respectful silence.

“Ever since leaving Ireland, I have, it is true, laboured under a constant earnest anxiety; but never felt any painful mortification till on reading the last paragraph of your Excellency's letter. As to the rank and character of a Commander in chief, it is a mere name, without value or currency, until established by your Excellency's stamp. I have repeatedly announced\*that the position does not seem to me to be treated with too much honour. But, my Lord, I have never missed an opportunity to proclaim the manifold unmerited favours daily lavished upon me in my *private* character. Had no other motive prompted, my vanity would not have allowed me to conceal the degree of estimation I seemed to possess at the Castle. I may safely say, I have boasted these favours,



not with design to have it reported to your Excellency, but because I felt, and do feel, the most unbounded gratitude, joined with a respectful attachment, which not even the hardest measures shall ever efface. I do not expect that what I can suggest should remove the fatal impression; and, most probably, I may never be at hand to justify my declarations by my conduct. The stroke is struck, and I submit. It is the forerunner of such calamities as my evil star has destined me to suffer. But I stop, lest these wretched reflections should carry me too far.

“I am, &c.”

GENERAL ELLIOT'S OSTENSIBLE LETTER TO  
GENERAL HARVEY, DATED 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER,  
1774. DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL TO  
MY LORD LIEUTENANT, 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 1775.

“Dr. H.,—I am obliged, as you know, to set out for Chichester; but hope, without fail, to be at the levee Friday next. In the mean while, this note contains my thoughts in consequence of yesterday's conversation.

“Since our meeting, I have not ceased to revolve in my mind the subject in question. The result of my most deliberate reflections is that the fundamental point appears in no other light than what I have, so often, represented it. *All mili-*

*tary business of whatever kind to be addressed to the Commander in chief; and by him laid before the Lord Lieutenant. On which his Excellency (at leisure) will signify his decisions and orders in person to the Commander in chief; who must request, for his justification, that my Lord Lieutenant will please to put his initial to the minutes. Should any unforeseen emergency require the orders to be transmitted by letter, the favour of his Excellency's initial is likewise humbly requested.*

“The reasons for proposing the above mode have, in a general way, been so often discussed between us, that I will not repeat them, nor add what may have since occurred. So much I know, or, rather, firmly believe, that no other mode can be devised to carry on the military business with advantage to his Majesty's service.

“Hitherto, it is hoped, the Commander in chief has incurred no blame; unless from too much pliancy, which he judged prudent, considering the circumstances. But, should he now (with his eyes open after a nearer view and without positive injunctions) engage to discharge a duty, when the most unsurmountable difficulties (in his judgment) seem to obstruct the completion; he would then, with justice, not only deserve the severest censures, but risk the greatest of all punishments, a forfeiture of the Royal confidence, of which I, personally, have so very lately received the most dis-

tinguishing mark. On the other hand, by adhering to what I think undoubtedly necessary, I shall, at worst, be called obstinate or mulish. At the same time, a charitable friend may, perhaps, suggest that this perseverance proceeds more from honesty than interested policy.

“Dr Harvey, Yours, &c.

“P.S. This is my opinion, and I do not object to its being communicated, in case opportunity offers, before I come back.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

(Duplicate to the Earl of Rochford.)

*“ November 14th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Lord Belvidere died yesterday morning at his seat in Westmeath. By his death the place of Muster Master General is become vacant, which I hope his Majesty will be graciously pleased to give to Lord Shannon. This is what I understood was proposed by Lord Townshend, and approved of by his Majesty. It would in some sort be a reward for the very important services, and very effectual support, which that noble Lord has uniformly given, since he first engaged to take a part with administration.

“I was a good deal surprised to-day by a visit from Lord Irnham, who came to dine with me. When dinner was over, and the rest of the company retired, he told me that, as he was going to England, he came to receive my commands. He had heard of Lord Belvidere's death, and he hoped there was no impropriety in putting in his claim to the Muster Master General's place. He

then gave me an account of many things that had passed between him and Mr. Greenville, when that place was vacant on the death of Lord Charleville, and during the Lord Lieutenancy of the Duke of Northumberland. He said he had afterwards renewed his claim when the Duke of Grafton was minister, and that he had never lost sight of it, having, as he apprehended, a promise of it. I told him I was an entire stranger to any thing that might have passed either between him and Mr. Greenville, or between him and the Duke of Grafton, relative to that employment, or, indeed, any other. I told him that, soon after my appointment to this government, I understood that on the decease of Lord Belvidere, who was then in a declining state of health, Lord Shannon was to succeed to the Muster Master General's place. I added that I considered myself as pledged to Lord Shannon, in whose behalf I should interest myself most cordially; for I looked upon him as the most zealous and honourable supporter of his Majesty's government.

"I should not have troubled your Lordship with what passed between me and Lord Irnham if his Lordship had not pressed me very much to mention it; but I trust it will make no alteration of his Majesty's gracious intentions in favour of Lord Shannon.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ November 24th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have not words to express how much I am obliged to you for the very kind and friendly offices which you so powerfully exerted, in order to obtain his Majesty’s consent to the very important arrangement which I took the liberty of submitting for his consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

“If any thing can make me amends for the many anxious hours which I have passed, it is the satisfaction of thinking that I have had the means of doing his Majesty more essential service than I ever expected to have done. I consider the abilities of Mr. Flood as the greatest of acquisitions; and, though they may appear to be purchased at no easy rate, yet, I am inclined to believe, in the course of time, they may prove the means of saving much greater sums.

“I cannot take leave of your Lordship without my warmest acknowledgments for all your goodness to Sir John Blaquiere, who stood greatly in need of such a cordial to support him. He occupies an office that has exposed him to every species of envy, and detraction, and calumny; which have been the more cruel and malicious, as he had done nothing to deserve them.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*“November 24th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—You must allow me to trouble you with my most cordial acknowledgments for the many instances of attention and friendship which you have shewn me. They were not, my dear Lord, thrown away upon me; for, though I was not on the spot to be witness of them, yet Sir John Blaquiere was too much my friend not to do justice to that seasonable support and to that kind interposition of which I stood so much in need, in the late disputes between the Commander in chief and myself.

“I have the satisfaction to think that what has passed between General Elliot and me, was not owing to any pique or jealousy on my part.

\*           \*           \*           \*           \*

“On the other hand, if the General did not see things in the same light that I did, I am ready to do him the justice to believe that, however his judgment might be misled, his zeal for his Majesty’s service is inferior to no man’s; though his warmth of temper may, sometimes, carry him too far. . . .

“I am, &c.”



## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, December 14th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—Lord Rochford much surprized me yesterday with a summons for this morning, to meet General Elliot, at his office, by his Majesty’s command. I could not help expostulating with his Lordship upon the matter. I told him that I did not think myself well used ; that there seemed to me to be an obvious design of making me a principal in the question ; which would be wanting attention to your Excellency, and very injurious to me. I said that I was not your representative, nor your delegate, but your servant ; a faithfull and a devoted one, and so should remain to the latest moment of my breath. I did not want, however, to shrink from this business, dangerous and delicate as I knew the service was ; and, to shew his Lordship that I was in earnest, I did not decline the meeting, on condition that he would warrant that in any thing which passed I should commit myself alone and not sacrifice any other person. Lord Rochford seemed entirely satisfied with this reasoning, and told me General Elliot was not to know that it was ap-

pointed by the King's command. Accordingly, at eleven to-day, I went. Lord Rochford opened the farce, and, in a gentlemanly and familiar way, wished to have a hearing of the parties, that conciliatory means might be adopted. The General then stated his grievance. More artfully and ably I never heard any thing done before. He was prolix in every point that tended to his purpose; and strong (much more so than ever I heard him) upon those which were important. He declared that he would absolutely and entirely separate the military from every other department; that he would, in *every* instance, be the first mover of business with the Lord Lieutenant, and receive personally and finally from him his decision and pleasure. He declared that he would not receive a letter from the secretary or from the office; and that, in all matters of favor, he would be the only man to recommend. Thus the army might look up to him for protection, and to him alone. In the same breath he declared he did not wish to take from the Lord Lieutenant the patronage of the army; and added in conclusion, that all business must be done agreeable to precedent, that he held a precedent in his hand which was unquestionable, and which he would abide by. A sulkily silence would ill have become me, and I took your letters for my text.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Your letters alarmed the General, when I read them as if he had never heard them before ; particularly that which your Lordship last wrote to him.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I said that the paper he had in his hand was not a precedent but only a casual accidental performance ; that precedents could only be had in the offices ; that your Excellency relied upon them, and that you meant to make them the rule of your conduct.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I said that, although I knew that precedent was one among other reasons with your Excellency for not giving up into the hands of the Commander in chief the patronage of the Irish army ; yet, paramount to this, was the consideration of the impossibility of complying with the General's claims, consistently with the constitutional government of the country. Every thing, I added, which could be done, I believed it to have been your intention to do, to accommodate the General ; and that you meant to refuse him only what it was impossible for you to grant. It was impossible that the civil and military branches of the government could be entirely separated. Again, the Commander in chief could not, *as a claim of right*, correspond directly with the Lord

Lieutenant, without doing manifest indignity to the heads of the Law and Church.

\* \* \* \* \*

“If this principle of universal accessibility was admitted, there would be an end to the security of the King’s representative in Ireland; and, however lightly your Excellency might, peradventure, be disposed to treat the matter in your own case, it was an immunity you might probably think yourself bound to transmit inviolate to your successor.

“Lord Rochford said that when the King had read your Lordship’s letter to me, he had positively declared that you ought not to break through established forms and customs; that he could but entirely approve of your Lordship’s conduct. But, says Lord Rochford, the King charged me particularly to tell you, General, that he knew Lord Harcourt would make your time agreeable, and do every thing which possibly could be done to accommodate you in what you wished at your return. ‘No,’ replied the General, ‘that is too loose, it won’t do.’ He, the General, said he had never understood before that his Majesty had so entirely approved of your Lordship’s conduct; that it was his business to submit; but that he would not go to Ireland. He could do the King no service there, and that it was meant to crush him against the wall. Both Lord Rochford and

I then urged him to consider of the state of things; that he was really not reasonable. He seemed to have been convinced upon the arguments; but said, that, things being so, he would not go without his Majesty's positive commands; and that if, after all, he was forced to take upon him this ungracious command, he would not meddle with the economy nor with any of the material concerns of the troops. He said that at exercises and reviews he would just give his opinion or his orders upon what might appear to him to be amiss; and added that that was just the only insignificant business of the army.

"Upon this we parted; the General and I on the most cordial terms; and, which I mention as not an unimportant anecdote on the event, Lord Rochford immediately sent to fetch me back, and expressed the utmost amazement at the General's behaviour; he declared him unreasonable, impracticable, and wrong headed, beyond any thing he had ever seen before. He began wondering who the man would be that the King should name for this command. Indeed, as the General had made a positive and express declaration that he would not go, and had desired it to be reported to the King, I had not in my mind an idea of such a possibility. When, therefore, Lord Rochford sent for me at three o'clock, and acquainted me with the King's determination, I had some

doubts about believing it. In as few words as I can put it, the amount is this; the King thinks the General the most absurd and impracticable man that breathes; his Majesty was sensible of the propriety of my conduct in the conference this morning, in particular that I was so ready to speak and so openly. He thinks that it will not be possible for you to go on with the General, neither does he desire you should for any length of time; but go he must, though it were for to return in a few months; for, added his Majesty, if, upon this particular occasion, General Elliot did not return, no general officer in the army would accept of the command. To-morrow, Lord Rochford sends for the General to acquaint him with his Majesty's pleasure."

## Letter from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt:—

*“ December 16th, 1774.*

“MY LORD,—Could I imagine it was not well known how far from any gratification it is for me to be so long absent both from your Excellency's presence, and my duty to his Majesty's service, I should be ashamed at this time to offer my excuse in a letter dated at London.

“As I now see clearly my affairs will be finally arranged in about six weeks, I will only crave your Excellency's indulgence to dispense with my attendance until the beginning of February at furthest. This term will suffice to complete my preparations for an entire transplantation into a country where I am sure to thrive as long as it remains under the happy influence of your Excellency's government. My application on this account is not the only motive for writing at present, I am much more interested not to lose time in returning your Excellency my best and sincerest thanks for the recommendation to the government of Derry. It is not the recommendation alone that I am thankful for, but for the noble manner of doing it, and for the obliging certificate



attached to it. This his Majesty was graciously pleased to inform me of this day in the closet. At first sight it appears scarce possible to make suitable acknowledgments for such a favour; but I am not the least apprehensive but that my earnest endeavours will be attended with success; well knowing that a strict obedience to your Excellency's commands in the case of his Majesty's army, will be accepted as the most grateful tribute and properest return for the steady protection your Excellency bestows on the military and every other important branch of his Majesty's service.

"Before I left Ireland, my Lord, you seemed to wish that the prices of infantry commissions should be re-considered; in order to put a final stop to the frequent shameful bargains which, it is pretended, are occasioned by many commissions bearing a proportionable value to their real value. Should this continue to be your Excellency's intention, I would ask permission to consult my Lord Barrington and General Harvey; who may, perhaps, know the King's pleasure, and more readily point out such a mode as will best comprehend the British and Irish establishments.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE.

*“December 17th, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—How happy am I to be able to acquaint you that every thing is so far settled with General Elliot that he means to set out the latter end of next month, and, if I can judge from his present language, perfectly disposed to act with the greatest harmony and confidence.

“Before the General had had his last audience of the King he met Sir John Blaquiere at my office, by appointment, when we all discussed the whole matter in the most friendly manner. I am persuaded nothing but Sir John’s friendship to me would have induced him to assist at such a conference; but I should do injustice, where I most meant to do justice, if I did not acquaint your Lordship that nothing on earth could be more proper than Sir John’s behaviour. He spoke out like a man whenever called upon to give his own opinion, but so cautious of committing you that he would not even put the natural interpretation

upon the sentiments your various letters have contained, but left the words to speak for themselves. Indeed your letters were so clear and explicit as to need no explanation. It is with pleasure I can add that, by the present appearances, the old friendship between the General and Sir John will not have suffered by the unpleasant altercation that has subsisted. The little share I have had in this, and the small pains I have taken, are more than amply compensated by having the satisfaction to know that both parties have not been displeased with my interference.

“I laid your last private and secret letter before the King, and his Majesty expressed a good opinion of Lieut.-Colonel Harcourt, yet mentioned his being too low in the list of Lieut.-Colonels to obtain the rank of Colonel; and that the idea of selling a regiment is so revolting to all military ideas that your Excellency cannot be surprised at his Majesty's not only not listening to it, but disapproving of it.

“The King, in consequence of your Excellency's recommendation, has been graciously pleased to appoint General Elliot to the government of Londonderry, and his Majesty means to attach that government to the Commander in chief of the troops in Ireland, until Kilmainham hospital can be obtained. The King wishes your Excellency will try whether General Dilkes cannot be per-

suaded to exchange governments, considering the difficulties he is under. After the serious inquiry into the state of the hospital it is imagined he would be accommodating. Allow me to finish this by begging you to excuse the blots, as I had not time to write it over again, and to believe me with unfeigned regard, &c."

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of  
Rochford :—

*“ December 22nd, 1774.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship has done wonders; greater indeed than I imagined any man could perform, for you have brought General Elliot to a proper sense of his situation. I have received a very obliging letter from him, from which I cannot but conceive the fairest hopes of our being upon good terms. I can venture to assure your Lordship that nothing shall be wanting, on my part, to render his situation as agreeable and as honourable as can be desired for the carrying on the service with reputation and credit. The General has ten thousand good qualities, which were in danger of being lost by some very mistaken notions that had taken possession of his mind; to a degree that made it impossible to act with him, without making such concessions as must have thrown this government into the greatest disorder and confusion. The part which Sir John Blaquiere had to act was a very difficult one indeed; but he relied on your Lordship's candour, and the event has proved that he acted

with propriety, as your Lordship was fully satisfied with his conduct.

"I fear, from your Lordship's letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>, that his Majesty imagined I meant to recommend my son to succeed General Douglas, by purchase, in his regiment of Dragoons. It was by no means my intention ; for, though my son has been a Lieut.-Colonel these ten years, yet, when I consider how low his name stands in the list, it would be an instance of the greatest presumption in me to make so unreasonable a request. It would be the more unpardonable in me, after the many distinguished favours I have received. I am so sensible, my dear Lord, of his Majesty's great goodness, that I am persuaded my son will, at a proper time, feel the effects of it ; when his rank, his diligence, and attention to his profession, entitle, him to it. I can rely on your Lordship's friendship for explaining this matter to the King. Nothing in this world would give me half so much uneasiness, as to be thought capable of making a request which would lay his Majesty under great difficulties, and give him the most unfavourable opinion of me.

"I am &c."

## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ December 24th, 1774.*

“ MY LORD,—The sun has not shone to-day on my endeavours. I was disappointed in seeing Lord North, and, having called on General Elliot, with an insignificant message, at Lord Rochford's request, I found the general in my room at my return, for he was not at home in the morning. Upon the result of a conversation of only a few minutes I heard him deliver himself in a manner which satisfies me that it will be absolutely impossible for your Excellency to carry on business with my most honoured and beloved friend. You will please to recollect, my Lord, that, some considerable time ago, I mentioned to you what Lord Rochford had said to me concerning the general's aid-de-camps; namely, that his Majesty wished he should have another. I replied that I was sure you would ever consider as a law any thing that his Majesty could desire; but I added, that it might be attended with some inconvenience to your Excellency to have the appointment made before the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, as the estimates had been laid before parliament for the two years



ending 25<sup>th</sup> March next. If, however, the King desired it to be done sooner, I wished to be informed, that I might acquaint your Excellency at once. I had heard no more, and thought no more, about the matter till yesterday, when Lord Rochford desired me to call on Elliot. I was willing to do any thing to oblige, and, perhaps foolishly, undertook to go and ask the general's wishes, and to explain what my Lord said he was not enough a military man to do himself. I told the general how the thing stood, and was much surprised to hear him say that he had understood, from either Sir Stannier or Lord Rochford, that the King had appointed him another aid-de-camp.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I told the general that such a step was, in the first place, not practicable without your orders; and, in the next, must involve your administration in the greatest difficulties, because estimates for the current two years were already made; and that it must make, surely, little difference to him to wait till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. I ventured to say it might then be done; and that I could answer for your wishes to accommodate him, and to do any thing that the King desired. But the general was inflexible. He desired me to acquaint Lord Rochford with what had passed. This I declined to do. He said he should write to him this night himself. He said that he did not value the pay,

and that he would pay the aid-de-camp out of his pocket, but that, unless he was appointed immediately, he would not go to Ireland. Lord Rochford is in the country for ten days. I fancy he will scarce take any notice of the general's letter till he returns. Your Lordship will then probably hear more upon the subject.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of  
Rochford :—

“PRIVATE.

*“January 6th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have heard, with a good deal of uneasiness, that General Elliot has been very pressing to have another aid-de-camp ; in which if he should succeed government will be greatly embarrassed, as the faith of the Crown is in a manner pledged that the expense of the staff is not to exceed the present charge. It was an assurance of that sort that chiefly induced parliament to come into the late augmentation, in Lord Townshend's time, and the late arrangement and alteration of the staff, which his Majesty was pleased to approve of, was contrived to answer the estimates that were delivered to parliament. If General Elliot had been apprized of these facts, I have candour enough to believe that he would not have urged his request with so much earnestness as he has done ; because he must know, if his request is complied with, it would greatly embarrass my administration.

“If I was disposed to take any thing amiss of

General Elliot, I might have reason to complain of his taking any step tending to make an alteration in the staff without previously applying to the Lord Lieutenant; but I shall beg leave to observe, *en passant*, that on this occasion the general has given a very strong instance of the absurdity and impracticability of separating the civil from the military department.

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to  
Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, January 19th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—Every day brings me a fresh instance of all the difficulties there will be to encounter in carrying on business with our Commander in chief.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ He has no quarrel, he says, either with Lord Harcourt or his principal secretary. The character of the Lord Lieutenant he not only respects but adores and reveres. Blaquiere is his ancient friend, and, with some allowances for the frailties of mortality, is an honest fellow ; but the office he contends with, and whilst he is called upon to serve his Majesty he will resist that. I told you, my Lord, that the King was satisfied with the impropriety of the general's insisting upon naming his second aid-de-camp at this moment ; indeed the impossibility was so evident, that it was unnecessary to argue about it. General Harvey and Lord Rochford seemed also sensible of it ; they yesterday told me that General Elliot had acquiesced to the particular situation of the case,

and was contented to postpone the nomination of his second aid-de-camp to the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Provided, that is, that Lord Rochford or Sir Stanier Porter should inform him, in writing, that he might then declare the nomination.

\* \* \* \* \*

“His Lordship further informed me that the King had seemed disposed to give him directions to write to your Lordship, to desire such a pledge might be given to the general. There was no longer room to hesitate.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I told my Lord Rochford in plain terms that it would be such an insult upon you as I did not believe you would bear; such a one, I would venture to assert, as had never before been put on any man in your station. If you thought proper to adopt the measure you would signify your intentions, but that to force you to pledge yourself by such a kind of promissory note was a doctrine new, I fancied, to Lord Lieutenants. I added that I had an idea that it would be impossible for you to submit to it.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Lord Rochford and I are great friends; and I am confident there is no man wishes you better; nor would he willingly do any thing unacceptable to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I fancy now you will not receive the proposed letter. If you had done so, my small portion of understanding tells me there had been no alternative for your Excellency. You would probably have desired his Majesty's permission to return to England, or you must have requested that the general should be removed.

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

"I went to the House at three, where Lord North presented at the bar all the American papers, moving for a committee of the House to take them into consideration on this day sen-night. Mr. Burke made some objections to their being *extracts* and not entire. Nobody else said ought, which I augur to be a capital victory ; for, unquestionably, the withholding the fullest information that could be had on such a crisis as this, was a matter on which administration must have been run hard. To-morrow Lord Chatham is expected to thunder in the House of Lords. . . ."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*"Duke-street, January 20th, 1775.*

"MY LORD,—I was surprised when Lord North told me this morning the plan that had been adopted last night in the Cabinet, with regard to the embarkation of troops for America. He



seemed, indeed, to be doubtful about the transaction ; and I soon convinced him of the illegality of what they had done. He requested me to go to Lord Rochford and set it right.

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

“ I found that Lord Rochford had, by the King’s command, consulted General Harvey and General Elliot on this business. They had decided to draft the Irish army in the manner signified to your Excellency by Lord Rochford’s official letter of last night. I told my Lord Rochford that he had put his name to an order that he could not justify, and that it might not be in your Excellency’s power to obey. I reminded him that it militated directly in the teeth of the King’s message to the House ; which message had been consolidated into a law ; and that you could not draft any part of the 12,000 men which were by that law pledged to the country. To meet the exigencies of the case, I proposed that your Excellency should have so many men sent from hence as you might want to replace the precise numbers of those you should draft. This I urged with my best might, and that a messenger should be sent with the intelligence, in order that you might be acquainted with it before you should be drove to acknowledge the first order. Lord Rochford and General Harvey, whom I saw together, acquiesced immediately in the thing. Lord Rochford went di-

rectly into the King. His Majesty assented to the proposal, and, if your Excellency agrees, nothing now remains but that you should ask that the 19<sup>th</sup> regiment, or such part of it as shall be necessary to complete, or rather, to replace, the numbers deficient on the establishment, may be sent to Ireland; so that they may land at Donoghodee before the others embark at Cork.

“As I take it, the state of the Irish army stands thus:—

Numbers within the Kingdom	.	.	13,474	
3 Regiments Foot to go	.	.	1,431	
1 Regiment Light Dragoons	.	.	177	
Drafts from each Company 1 man				
for 20 Regiments	.	.	200	
8 men a Troop to be drafted to the				
17 <sup>th</sup> Dragoons	.	.	48	1,856
				<u>11,618</u>

So that there will be a breach of the law to the amount of 382 men. But if the 3 Companies in the Isle of Man are sent to Ireland, as I understand to be the intention, there will be then 142 men to be deducted from the 382. Still there will remain a breach of 140 in the numbers limited by law. This may at first sight appear trifling; but, I ask, where will be the security for that country, if once the precedent of an infraction were made, though it were for ten men only? . . . .”

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, January 25th, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—I waited this morning three hours for the sake of three minutes’ conversation with Lord North. I found him in a hurry dressing for Court. He had not a moment to spare, and desired me to talk French on account of the servant who was in the room. I told him, that if I was not exceedingly pressed from Ireland, I should not come in the manner I did, to intrude upon him at a time when I saw him so *accablé* with his American affairs. I urged upon him, with all my might, the absolute necessity there was to bring Mr. Flood’s business to a conclusion. My Lord Clare, I told him, had perhaps not rightly understood that the chief Chamberlain’s office was one that was given for life ; but that, if Lord Clare should be disinclined for it, I had reason to think Mr. Jenkinson would not refuse it.

\* \* \* \* \*

“With his usual apologies, which were very friendly, he told me I knew their American affairs were now at a crisis, and that he had less time than ever to think of any thing else. Upon the subject of Mr. Jenkinson, he said, I knew his opinions, and he repeated them, but that he would speak to Lord Clare this day again in the House.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I asked leave to call upon him in the morning, I shall be there at ten.

"As I was driving home in a coach I saw, methought, Mr. Flood in the streets. Mr. Jenkinson, with whom I dined yesterday, told me he had heard from a friend at Bath that he was grown quite outrageous. I sent to inquire at his late lodgings if he really were in town, and finding it to be so, I wrote a civil note to Mr. Flood that I had not known till that moment that he was arrived, and begged to wait on him in the morning if he could be at home at eleven. Within these few minutes I have received a verbal answer, by a footman, that he cannot possibly be at home at the time mentioned. What does your Lordship think of it?

"I am ever unalterably and devotedly

"your faithful humble Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*"Duke-street, February 2nd, 1775.*

"MY LORD,—... Having attended by appointment yesterday at Lord North's, I was shewn into a room with Lord Clare, who was soon called into the closet, and dismissed at the end of about an hour. I was then admitted, and found that

Lord Clare had been inflexible. He had refused the office of chief Chamberlain with a salary of £2,600 a year for life. He said that, if it was to make so much clamour in Ireland, he could not bring himself to encounter it now at his age, and with his declining health. In short there was an end to Lord Clare. My Lord North seemed a good deal concerned; he said he had done every thing he could.

\* \* \* \* \*

“He seemed very truly sensible of the whole extent of your services; and as to your budget of recommendations, he, better than any body, knew there was not eighteen penny worth of advantage asked for any friend or connection of your own upon earth. So true was this, and, at the same time, so incredible, that I said I should take the liberty to advise two or three ‘five hundreds’ for some friends, in order to shew the difference, and establish the merits of all the rest. My Lord was well satisfied with it all, he knew it well, but what to do in the present emergency was the question. He was to speak to Ellis again to-day, but seemed without hope from that quarter, on account of the enmity between the Floods and Agars.

\* \* \* \* \*

“As to Mr. Jenkinson, he has already the reversion of a very great office; and, if this independent situation were proposed to be added as

well, Lord North did not think the King would consent. Mr. Jenkinson, from principle, education, and practice, is so strongly attached to the Crown, that I could not help observing I thought it altogether impossible the matter should make any alteration in his conduct. Lord North then threw out the idea of giving Mr. Flood this same Chamberlain's office for life, 'but for life,' says he, 'you probably would not choose he should have it.' The offer was precisely what I wished, but I thought it necessary to suppress my feelings, until I had put this matter upon paper to be submitted to your Excellency; so I avoided giving any answer.

"My Lord Clare did, I find, accept this same office from the King, but then flew off again.

\* \* \* \* \*

"In order to judge properly upon this business, your Lordship will recollect that, if Mr. Flood had not himself laid his finger upon this same Vice Treasurer's office, he would have a right to think himself injured in not having been appointed to the Provostship, under those general assurances which, he says, were given him of succeeding to the first vacant office without exception.

\* \* \* \* \*

"He already has an office for life so it rests with your Excellency to superadd, and to get him to accept of, some emolument during pleasure;

otherwise, the Lord have mercy on your administration !

“ It is necessary for me to state all these things with freedom. The case is too critical and serious to require apology. Your judgment must determine. But, at this great distance from you, I have to submit whether it might not, on the whole, be advisable for you to empower me to decide upon such plan as may be best practicable at the moment, and which, in the end, may best answer your purposes and the good of the King’s government. Always understood, when I say this, that your Excellency will furnish me with your sentiments, at large, upon each proposition ; in order to enable me to adopt, in the first instance, what shall appear to me to be most agreeable to your wishes.

“ The expense of all these things is much alike ; I can have nothing further to add ; I shall wait with impatience your orders, by return of the messenger.

“ I am to thank your Lordship for condescending to acquaint me with the contents of your letter to Lord Rochford, on the old subject of the general’s aid-de-camp. The last you wrote me, and which I put into Lord Rochford’s hands, has entirely satisfied his Majesty and Lord Rochford. The King does not desire it should be done sooner than the 26<sup>th</sup> March. I believe the general is



satisfied too, but I do not know for certain, as I have studiously avoided talking to him upon it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"As, therefore, all these things seem to be well understood here, I shall, agreeably to your kind permission (which I conceive to be implied, though not positively expressed), forbear to deliver this last letter to Lord Rochford till I hear further from you.

"They are going to pass some bills (in order to quiet people's minds at home respecting our West India trade) to give bounties for the importation of staves and lumber, to such places as might else be undone by the American non-exportation agreement. Lord North seems well-disposed to include Ireland. I, therefore, desire to request your Excellency to be so good as to inform me what other objects, besides staves, you may think it would be necessary to enumerate for Ireland, and the amount of the bounty. . . ."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*"Duke-street, February 3rd, 1775.*

"It is yet a secret, my Lord, but I know it to be the intention of sending, forthwith, as Major-Generals to America, Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne. I have a shrewd guess that Amherst has

declined the chief command, but only conjecture it; and I think that peradventure Monckton may go. It is more than probable also that Burgoyne's regiment may cross the Atlantic; of which, however, there is not yet a whisper, but it is so possible that I think the Colonel should be informed of it, if you think it not improper.

"I am, with everlasting and the most faithful attachment, your obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl  
Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

“*February 6th, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—I am, in this private and confidential manner, to acquaint your Excellency that, in order to fill up the vacancies with more speed, his Majesty is pleased to grant you a discretionary leave to connive, on the present emergency, at the regiments that remain in Ireland taking Irish recruits.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“PRIVATE.

“*March 8th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I found myself, this morning, under the indispensable necessity of sending the enclosed paper to the Commander in chief, in order to ascertain and establish the mode of conveying my orders to him. The general has declared to Mr. Waite an unwillingness to receive any orders without my signature; and that he should consider such as might be signified to him by my secretary for the time being, only as notifications; to which, however, he should not refuse paying obedience, till such time as he could learn from me whether they had been issued by my direction. I thought it extremely material to make the Commander in chief acquainted with my intention of adhering strictly to the usual official methods of transacting business in former administrations. Whatever his ideas might have been before he came over, I was in hopes that a thorough inspection of the office books might have convinced him of the impracticability of

carrying on business, if the Lord Lieutenant is debarred from the discretionary power of issuing his orders either under his own signature, or by his secretary for the time being. The experience of more than two years and a quarter has convinced me of the necessity of exercising this right, for, in many instances, it is impossible for the Lord Lieutenant to sign the orders that may be proper to be sent to the Commander in chief. The office books here have been kept with the greatest regularity. They plainly shew what the practice has been in former administrations, and in the earlier times of this government.

"I shall trouble your Lordship, to-morrow or next day, with a number of proofs, that your Lordship may see I have not taken this step without very sufficient grounds to justify it. I shall trouble you with several copies of letters that were issued under the Lord Lieutenant's signature; and of many others, of equal importance, that conveyed the Duke of Dorset's orders to Lord Rothes; as also the Duke of Bedford's orders to his Lordship, by their respective secretaries for the time being; and to which I have no reason to think his Lordship refused paying due obedience.

"The general desired my leave to transmit the paper I sent him to England, that it may be laid before his Majesty. I told him, by all means,

for, if he had still any doubts, it might be the properest step he could take. If I had not seen the absolute necessity of bringing this matter to an issue, I should have avoided taking any step that might give his Majesty one moment's trouble or uneasiness. To whatever it may be his Majesty's pleasure to determine, it will be my duty to submit most cheerfully, so long as I have abilities and health to serve him, and so long as his Majesty shall think fit to employ them; and, permit me to add, so long as I am able to support the dignity of my high station and of my own character.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER OR ORDER REFERRED  
TO IN THE ABOVE LETTER.

(Delivered by Major Buchanan to the General.)

*"March 8th, 1775.*

"WHEREAS it hath been the practice, for a great number of years past, to signify many orders of his Majesty's government in this Kingdom to the Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces here, by letters from the chief secretary for the time being; specifying particularly therein that such orders are so signified by Command of the government, and it being absolutely necessary, not only for the convenience and ease

of the government for the time being, but for the more ready dispatch of military business, which, of late years, is greatly increased, that this practice should, in many cases, be continued. We do hereby signify to you, That it is Our intention, *in such cases as we shall judge to be proper*, to cause our orders to be signified to you, in our name, by letters to you from our chief secretary for the time being. Which Orders you are to consider and observe in like manner as you would do if the same were signified to you under our own signature.

“ Given, &c.

“ By His Excellency’s Command,

“ (S.S.) THO<sup>s</sup>. WAITE.”



## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, March 18th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—... I now conclude with two words, to let your Lordship know that Messrs. Nesbits have handed in charges to the treasury here of no less than £10,000 for the expenses of passing the gold coin. The charges were disallowed, because England does not mean to pay the expense of the Irish gold, beyond exchanging light for heavy coinage. The further expense is a contingency that will naturally fall upon our exchequer. I was desired to acquaint your Excellency that the whole contingent charge upon the English five millions comes but to twenty-eight thousand pounds; from whence people here do not scruple to say that £10,000 for Ireland is the most iniquitous charge that ever was heard of. I was desired to give you this hint that you may direct the account to be sifted and examined as it ought, whether in Council or elsewhere, before it be allowed to pass.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ I am, with eternal attachment and respect,  
your Excellency's devoted and faithful servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

## Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

*“March 23rd, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—If I have deferred answering your Excellency’s first private letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, it was owing to the King’s deferring to give any answer or opinion until he had received the precedents of your predecessors which you promised to transmit. They are since arrived, and on perusing them, his Majesty is convinced you have not attempted to introduce a new mode of proceeding, and his Majesty entirely approves your Excellency’s conduct. It is his Majesty’s wish, and he has not the least doubt that your Excellency will carry it out, that you should contribute every aid in your power, as far as the absolute necessary forms of office will permit, to enable Lieut.-General Elliot (whose zeal and abilities the King equally values) to promote and improve the discipline of the army. At the same time his Majesty has no intention to break into the line of your proper authority, and your Excellency may, therefore, continue to tread in the steps of your predecessors, whenever you shall think it necessary.

“I am, &c.”

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE.

*“March 23rd, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I cannot send the public letter of this date without writing you a confidential letter, and enclosing you, privately, for your own information, a copy of the letter I write to Lieut.-General Elliot of this date ; by which your Excellency will see the King approves his military capacity and intentions, but that he must, for the future, submit to any orders you think necessary to send through your secretary. Whether he will, or will not, time will determine, and, dare I take the liberty to speak the sentiments of a friend, I would let the affair work itself. Your conduct is according to order, and, with a very little patience, every thing will turn out right, as you are sure of being supported here. Your friend, Sir John Blaquiere, is indefatigable in promoting every thing that may either be for your interest or convenience, and he will do me the justice to say that I am not backward in forwarding your or his wishes. I will not bore you with any more professions or reflections, and, therefore, shall only beg leave to repeat that temper and patience will allow your friends here to set all this right, amongst which number allow me to subscribe myself, &c.”

COPY OF THE LETTER TO GENERAL ELLIOT  
REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING.

"SIR,—I did not omit the very first opportunity of laying before the King your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, together with one of the same date from Lord Harcourt. Since the receipt of these letters Lord Harcourt has transmitted many precedents of his predecessors, concerning the directions to the Commander in chief of the forces in Ireland through the channel of various Lord Lieutenants' secretaries. His Majesty cannot, therefore, object, as novel, to his Excellency's following those precedents when he thinks it proper ; but his Majesty is perfectly satisfied that you are actuated by your zeal for introducing a strict discipline in that part of his Majesty's army now in Ireland ; and, therefore, it is with peculiar satisfaction I can acquaint you that our Royal Master throws not the least blame on your conduct.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl  
Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, March 28th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,— . . . The Duke of Cumberland, whose condescending attention will probably ruin me if I stay here much longer, came to me yesterday to complain that there were now six months due of his pension ; which, he gave me plainly to understand, put him to great inconvenience. You may be sure, my Lord, I told him I should write to your Excellency of it immediately.

“ My Lord North has, to my extreme joy, put all our Irish affairs into your friend Jenkinson's hands. This was the summit of my wishes ; for, with all his Lordship's best intentions, he is so straitened for time, I began to fear it might slip through his fingers. He has indeed so many more objects, so much more nearly concerning him, that it is scarce in human nature to suppose he could have done our affairs justice. I therefore, for some time past, have pressed Mr. Jenkinson, as the only competent person, upon him ; and happy was I to find to-day that all this is fairly delegated. Lord North will move the measure in the House, but Mr. Jenkinson prepares the bill.

Of the present state of these affairs in general, and as a sample of the intended mode of proceeding in particular, I send you the enclosed transcript of a clause of this glorious act of parliament ; which, I conceive, may now give your Excellency some pleasure. Should not you think it advisable, my Lord, that Mr. Jenkinson should hear from your own mouth, or rather, have it from your own hand, how much you think yourself obliged to him ? As in truth you most undoubtedly are, and will be.

“ I am, ever respectfully and unfeignedly, your

“ devoted and faithful Servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“ PRIVATE.

“ *March 29th, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—By the time this letter reaches your Lordship you will probably receive one from General Elliot requesting his Majesty’s leave to resign his command of the forces in this Kingdom. The general desired me to second his request, which I thought very unnecessary and indeed improper, for reasons sufficiently obvious. The resolution taken by the general does not appear to be the effect of any sudden warmth or passion, but in consequence of the most deliberate and serious reflection, from which he was not to be diverted by any thing I could offer. He expressed his concern to find himself reduced to the necessity of taking a step that might appear disrespectful to his Majesty, which was the farthest from his thoughts ; for, in fact, it proceeded only from a thorough persuasion of his not being able to do the King any essential service in the command he had been pleased to give him. He was pleased to express a personal regard and esteem for me, and to overrate any little civilities I may



have shewn him. I could only repeat what had been said by me on a former occasion, and express my concern for the steps he had thought proper to take. That concern would be much greater than it is if I was not conscious of having done nothing more than my station required, and what was absolutely necessary for his Majesty's service.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from General Elliot.

GENERAL ELLIOT, having waited on my Lord Lieutenant, delivered to his Excellency the following copy of his letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> March to Lord Rochford :—

“MY LORD,—By this day’s mail I had the honour of your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will not delay a moment to return my grateful thanks.

“Your Lordship will easily imagine I did not in the least expect my scruples would have any weight, when compared with his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant’s deliberate resolutions. My doubts were founded, my Lord, upon what I did, and do, feel; that his Majesty’s army in this Kingdom cannot be regulated to the greatest advantage, unless the person who is charged with this important trust can enjoy, uninterruptedly, my Lord Lieutenant’s confidence in the whole military department. This seems to me impossible whenever an intermediate hand is employed for conveying his Excellency’s intentions to the Commander in chief, previous to any communication upon the several subjects, and exclusive of any representations which, in very many cases, seem unavoidable. It cannot be supposed but

that the man entrusted with the command of the army is more qualified for that employment, from his long experience of military duties, than most gentlemen in civil capacities. The thoughts of such gentlemen have been employed on other matters. And, from the duties of their office, they cannot possibly spare time even to trace an outline for the government of an army so important to this Kingdom, and so liable to derangement, if its various dispositions and movements are not daily attended by the most watchful eye.

"This, my Lord, is my general supposition upon which I ground my difficulties, and which appear to me so unsurmountable, that I have this day ventured to request my Lord Lieutenant would please to lay my case before his Majesty, and obtain his Royal permission that I may resign my commission as Commander in chief of his forces in Ireland. This application of his Excellency's I humbly entreat your Lordship would please to forward with your assistance, and that you will contribute still to maintain me in that degree of consideration which my most gracious Sovereign pleased to express for my zeal to his service.

"I am, &c."

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Sir John Blaquiere :—

*"April 1st, 1775.*

"DEAR SIR,—The packet that is just arrived has brought me yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month. Your conjectures were well founded as to the general's desiring his recall, which, for his sake as well as my own, I now hope he will obtain. Impressed as his mind is with the necessity of departing from the mode of doing business that has been so long practised here, I plainly foresee things would never be done in the manner the King has a right to expect. The general seems to have adopted his idea before he was sufficiently acquainted with the nature of this government; and to require, for his own security, what was never thought necessary under former administrations. He argues upon mistaken principles that lead him astray; for he will not consider the orders signified by my secretary as a sufficient justification of his conduct in case of accident. The Commander in chief is, certainly, a very high and a very efficient officer, but the Lord Lieutenant alone is responsible to the King and to

the public, and, therefore, ought to have every security his station can afford him.

"The experience of many years proves to a demonstration the necessity of adhering to official forms, in which the safety of the Lord Lieutenant principally consists. The office, in all its departments, may be considered as a faithful register of the different transactions, particularly in the late trial of his Majesty's right to the Phoenix Park, when the greatest advantages were derived from the office books. Where people have no precedents to direct them they must do as well as they can; but why quit the open road that is a good one for a new one that may prove more difficult? The general has a horror of all offices and official forms, and is averse to any concern with them. I am at a loss, however, to conceive how fleets and armies are to be commanded, and how Kingdoms are to be governed, without them.

"A desire to accommodate and make matters easy has made me go a little out of the way, as my good friend Lord Rochford wished me to do; for, otherwise, I should think I had done wrong in submitting to sign the general's minutes of the business he lays before me. He seemed to lay a great stress on obtaining the initial letter of my name to those minutes, for which the only precedent he could produce was a paper with the Duke of Bedford's answer to different articles signed at

bottom with the initial letter of his Grace's name. It was one of those papers of minutes transmitted from the office to the general that gave him, as I am informed, so much offence because it was not sent back, as another had been, under my own cover. In short there is no doing business with people that are captious, and always upon the *qui vive*.

"In conversation with the general he hinted at his note to General Harvey, which he took for granted I had seen. When I told him I had not seen it, 'has not Sir John Blaquiere communicated it to your Lordship?' I told him 'No,' for that you apprehended, and very prudently, it would be conveyed more properly through the regular channel. The general then lamented that Lord Rochford had not transmitted that paper, as it contained the summary of the concessions he expected to be made previous to his coming over. 'For,' said he, 'your Lordship would have given your answer, Yes, or No; if the latter there would have been an end to the affair, and I should have saved your Lordship and myself a great deal of trouble, without the risk of incurring his Majesty's displeasure.' It is very possible Lord Rochford either might not have seen the above letter, or, if he saw it, was not requested to transmit it to me. Besides, knowing how much his Majesty wished to see a good understanding prevail be-

tween the Commander in chief and me, it was natural for his Lordship rather to apply lenitives than to take any step that might increase the difficulties.

"I thought it was not worth while troubling Lord Rochford with any thing further on this subject, as I conclude the whole affair is, in a manner, over, and that General Elliot will obtain the King's consent to return to England.

"I am, &c."



## Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, April 14th, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—The King has consented to my agreement with Mr. Fox. Lord North is delighted with it. A better bargain was surely never made for the Crown. The creation of a new office, of two new offices, in fact, is thereby avoided. Mr. Ellis is to have the Pells.

\* \* \* \* \*

“We shall have a good deal to arrange with Mr. Fox’s trustees and creditors, but nothing, I fancy, very difficult. As to the great and principal object of this great business, I will not even suppose that he will refuse this office, which, I fancy I may be allowed to say, he certainly asked from your Excellency; and particularly now, when it will come to him unencumbered with the odious consideration of having been the means of inducing any permanent expense upon the establishment. We shall dress it up in its best, depend upon it; and offer it to him through the medium of the Bishop of Chester. As, however, the *only* friend we can employ in this business is out of town, not to return for seven or eight days, you

must keep your anxiety at ease, and your patience at work till he arrives. It would be folly to precipitate things now, or to put to the risk of a hasty or unguarded expression the anxious labours of so many months. I trust, in God, we shall have a fair issue out of them, and then indeed, the prospect will be pleasant.

“Lord North has asked me to come and stay with him a few days at Bushy, which I propose doing next week. I want, indeed, much to talk to him on Irish affairs, previous to the debate of Thursday sennight; from which (I do not mean only my talk, but that discussion) you may expect the greatest benefits to the Kingdom of Ireland. You will, enclosed, find a paper of accounts, which Mr. Jenkinson has asked for, to illustrate the point of our sugar trade. I have not a doubt the bill you desire on this subject will be obtained for you, though not this session. Indeed, I should not think it so advisable for Ministers here, nor so eligible for your Excellency on the other hand, to obtain it during the present session. My object is that it should be fairly and fully discussed in the House on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and that the Ministry should pledge themselves, to a certain degree, to bring it into Parliament the next session. This will put the measure out of all sorts of risks; and, according to my humble apprehension, will be far more eligible for your Administration. It

will hang something out for expectation, which will keep gentlemen in Ireland in temper; and, God knows, the make of man is such, that if it were all done now it is more than probable it would be forgot before our Parliament meets in the month of October. This is my idea of the sugars; the same holds for the white herring fisheries, as it will be a means of appeasing the stubborn jealousy of the Scotch. When they find we do not want to surprise nor precipitate, they will no longer obtrude their fears and terrors. I think we may get Ministry, I mean Lord North and Mr. Jenkinson, to pledge themselves to this course. You want nobody else. Lord George Germaine keeps as a *corps de reserve*, and will step forth, depend upon it, whenever he is wanted. I will take care there shall be no mistake in the orders.

“I have appointed Percy, and Sir Lucius O’Brien to meet me here at eight to-night; when I shall treat them, in the mental way, with as much fish, oil, and sugar, as they can desire. Sir Lucius works like a slave at it; I have been employing him these two days past in keeping some of our treasonable friends quiet in the House. It is from their intemperate zeal alone you have any thing to fear, lest they should persist in their endeavours to overload the cart, and put too much butter upon the cake. I find Sir L. has worked with some success.

"Lord Effingham wrote a foolish, or rather a high, letter yesterday, desiring leave to resign. I fancy that part of the requisition which states his wishes to quit his company will meet with no difficulty. Your Excellency knows my wishes in favour of Lieutenant Loftus; with a view to make the opening in your family for Lady North's kinsman; a promotion which at this time would be peculiarly desirable for the convenience of your administration. Yet, upon this occasion, I find myself bound to acquaint you that I have good reason to know the King would not be well satisfied with any arrangement but that of a regimental succession, now that the regiment is so soon to embark for American service.

"Should your engagements permit you to consider of Sir Stanier Porter's relation, Mr. Nesbit, for the colours, and that you saw no material objection to it, I shall confess his appointment would give me particular pleasure. Sir Stanier, in all this critical time, has been continually devoted to your Excellency, and a warm and a useful servant.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Should you not be able to appoint Mr. Nesbit, which I think more than possible, three ostensible lines upon the subject, such as I may send to Sir Stanier, may do as well as the Ensigny, for the present.

"Lord Pembroke wishes his son not to be appointed before September.

"Mr. Knox left London to-day. You will wonder that, in a letter of so much business, I should think of crowding in such a foolish name. It is necessary, however, your Lordship should know that, about four months ago, he, among fifty others, made me some wild propositions about a peerage, which I promised to lay before you; I expected, indeed, then to have been in Ireland long before him. The story is not worth writing. His offers amounted to about half a seat in the House; you will get ten times better terms from as good men.

"Respectfully and faithfully your obliged and  
"devoted Servant,"

"J. BLAQUIERE."

COPY.

"It is agreed between Sir J. Blaquiere and Mr. Fox, that, in consideration of a Pension of one thousand seven hundred pounds per annum<sup>a</sup>, Irish money, to be granted to the said Mr. Fox, or his assigns, for the term of thirty-one years, Mr. Fox will resign the office of Clerk of the Pells.

"J. BLAQUIERE.

"C. J. FOX.

*"London, April 12th, 1775."*

<sup>a</sup> Divided into three terms, to enable Fox to sell them the easier.

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, Sunday the 30th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—. . . I dined yesterday with Irwin at Lord George Germaine’s. The general means to set off Monday sennight, that is the 8<sup>th</sup> May. You will find him perfectly satisfied with exactly the same forms used with Dilkes, the *entrée* to your Excellency alone excepted. This is precisely what one could wish. Any other mode would be impracticable, without making either the general or the chief secretary a cipher ; either of which would be equally prejudicial to the King’s service. The general is enchanted with the civility of your letter.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ I am, with the unfeigned and sincere attachment, your devoted and most faithful and obliged Servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, May 30th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—I was yesterday indeed very agreeably surprized with a note from M<sup>r</sup>. Broughton, acquainting me that the King had signed a warrant for my sister, M<sup>rs</sup>. de Mearon’s, pension. Lord

North, 'tis true, said something about it to me on Friday; but I was so agitated with the disagreeable occurrences of that and the preceding day, that I took so little notice of what he said, as scarce to thank him for the obliging manner in which he expressed himself to me; indeed I did not know to what an extent he had pushed it.

"You will remember, my Lord, that so long ago as upon my first arrival I acquainted you with my having asked Lord North to give my sister a pension of £200 a year on this establishment; intimating (as I was well warranted to do, as you had recommended me for £1,000) that he might indemnify himself in the expence, by placing the same sum on the establishment of Ireland. There this thing rested, till upon my return from Switzerland, an opportunity offering, I desired him, or rather expressed a wish, that if he did this thing, and meant to oblige me exceedingly, I should like it were for as much as should bring £200 clear and nett of all deductions. You will, therefore, not wonder how agreeably surprized I must have been to find that this pension is for £300 nett. I have not seen the warrant, but I understand it is made for about £390, more or less. It was meant to be attended with a circumstance still more agreeable to me, namely, that it should be done for me without any load to your



government. Lord North told me on Friday that now the parliament had given some money (meaning the Buckingham house bill) he could readily do my sister's pension. I am confident he meant it in the manner I say, but it is done otherwise. There are people enough about him too jealous of me, and moved by reasons obvious and natural who have taken care to overrule that plan, so it is for a warrant on the Irish establishment.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I do not know if, at this particular time, a favor done to my sister be not of ten times more value to me than any thing done to myself.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I got, last night, your kind letter of the 24<sup>th</sup>, full of the most flattering expressions of your kind approbation of my successfull endeavors in the furtherance of your wishes upon the fishery and cloathing bills. They are in truth, my Lord, benefits of the most substantial sort, which will enrich Ireland, and perpetuate the remembrance of your name, and the services your administration has done to that country, whilst it exists as a Kingdom. . . .

"I am respectfully and faithfully

"Your devoted and most obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

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From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“Duke-street, Saturday night, June 3rd, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—Ever since ten this morning, and it's now eleven at night, have I been at Bushy. We galanted in the park all the forenoon, had company to dinner, and only went to busyness after tea. A harder nor a tougher bout I never had in my life; for every hour that this busyness is delayed a fresh difficulty arises, and I find myself standing single against all mankind. I never had so serious an engagement with his Lordship before. It lasted some hours, and the event doubtfull for the best part of the time. At length, however, our good stars prevailed, and I think the result of it is that he will send for Mr. Jenkinson to Bushy on Tuesday. This he has promised me to do, and I think he will offer him the Pells for life. Wednesday his Lordship comes to town. You can expect nothing from me worth hearing till that day.

“Ever respectfully and faithfully

“Your Excellency's devoted and obliged Servant,

“J. BLAQUIERE.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“June 7th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The untoward and capricious conduct of Lord Clare has, in some measure, disappointed my most sanguine hopes of an arrangement, that, I may presume to say, would have been greatly for the advantage of his Majesty’s affairs. I own I should be still more sensible of the disappointment, if I had not the strongest reliance on the kind assurances you have so frequently given to Sir John Blaquiere, of the most favourable disposition to make such an arrangement as might accommodate Mr. Flood, and make him a useful servant to the Crown. Was the ease of my own administration the only object, it would not become me to be so pressing as I am obliged to be on this occasion. The great abilities of this gentleman, and all the powers he is possessed of, have made him formidable to former administrations, and give him the capacity of being much more so hereafter. You will allow me, therefore, to say that his terms, however great and exorbitant they may appear, are little in com-

parison of the trouble he may give, or even of the expense that may be incurred on his account; if no method can be devised to engage his services. . . .

“I am, &c.”

## Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ Duke-street, June 9th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—You will scarcely believe that when once the difficulty of giving Mr. Jenkinson a situation for life was overcome, any other obstacles were to rise. So it is, however; two hours of the most serious conversation, which I have had this morning with Lord North, convinces me that, by the unlucky delays had in this busyness, the obstacles are almost become invincible; I never saw a man in such agitation. He spoke to me with unreserved confidence, but in a tone still more solemn than serious. He was to be tore to pieces for the business. No man before had been ever pressed to do any thing of the sort. He stated all his difficulties; that they were three-fold. First giving up the Vice-Treasurership; next the placing Mr. Jenkinson in such an independent situation, which would set all the people about him soliciting for the same; thirdly, and this the strongest of all, the improper, the very high terms given to Mr. Fox.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ He said he was undone by this busyness; he must go off; he could not stand it, meaning he

must resign. It was owing, I replied, to the unlucky delays which had bedevilled the busyness; if it had been done at first he would have heard nothing more of the matter.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I was obliged to tell him he spoke without information; 'Aye,' says he, interrupting me, 'tis that I complain of; information I must have, and information I shall write for to Ireland;' and when he had done, for I made it my study not to interrupt him, I replied that writing to Ireland was unnecessary, he need send nowhere; I had the vouchers in my pocket, grounded upon arithmetical calculation on which I should pledge myself, and that I should readily engage to satisfy him, if there was any certainty in numbers, or truth in facts. I said that the bargain was fair and adequate, and that altho' parliament should never do any thing to mend this or the Treasurer's offices, which, I believed, would be the easiest thing in nature, yet Mr. Fox had no more than that for which he gave a full value received. I should not even talk of the advantage this bargain had over the one I was empowered to make with Mr. Hamilton, which the King had seen, and by which there was a specific saving made to the Crown of £18,650, besides the change of a life which could not be valued at less than £5,000 more.

\* \* \* \* \*

"If my data are right, and they cannot be denied, a best life is worth, to buy it, 14 years' purchase; a term of 31 years is worth  $15\frac{1}{2}$  years' purchase; two lives are worth 17 years' purchase; three lives  $18\frac{1}{2}$  years. We all know, too, that there is such a difference between buying and selling an annuity, that it is almost infinite; for at the same time that it costs 14 years' purchase to buy, it can only be sold for six, seven, or eight years, at most. Take then the bargain to be made by two persons indifferent as to necessity, neither of them pressed by circumstances; the King, for example, wanting to buy an annuity of £2,000 a year for the best life, it will cost him 14 years' purchase, or £28,000; let it be £1,700 a year for the term of 31 years and it will cost £26,350, a difference scarce material; and this applied to the present point is supposing the office of Pells never to rise.

\* \* \* \* \*

"'Aye, but,' says my Lord, 'we know Mr. Fox can only sell his life for seven, eight years is the utmost for which he can sell his office.'

\* \* \* \* \*

"Put then, said I, every thing to the utmost disadvantage which the most hostile calculations can establish \* \* \* figures will prove that the case will admit of a state advan-



tageous to government in a proportion as £36,134 is to £26,350.

\* \* \* \* \*

“My Lord was much struck with this reasoning. I put it down for him in writing; he has taken it with him to Bushy, what will be the end I know not. It is evident to me that our enemies, indeed they are no friends of his Lordship's, are turning heaven and earth to upset the measure; they are always at work, and poison his mind. No man was so bent against a purpose as when I met him in the morning. It amounted altogether to this: if you will force me, Mr. Blaquiere, by reproaching me with a breach of my word, and will not suffer this bitter cup to pass by me, it shall, on my part, be my care to do it in the most graceless manner I can. I will effect every delay, I will have vouchers, papers, accounts, correspondence, every thing to procrastinate. I shall gain time, and who knows what good or evil may not arise to prevent my doing it at last. I had, however, the satisfaction to see that I had softened his mind.

“Never had I before occasion to exert as I did every faculty of my mind. I was obliged to speak freely, but I did it, tho', without hesitation. It was no time to compliment. I am sure he took it well; we parted on terms of better friendship, I fancy, than we have ever been on before. I am sure

'twould require nothing more if there was no devil to whisper in his ear; but as it stands I expect the same battle again next Tuesday or Wednesday. I must stick to it, I shall make my face hateful at their houses. Some of them, I am persuaded, think they'll make me pay for it in the Alnage. I expect it, but I am very well disposed to sacrifice something more than that upon the occasion. As I returned I called in upon Robinson; he asked me what had passed, I told him of the agitated state of mind in which I had *found* Lord North. It cannot be done, says Robinson; Mr. Fox's bargain cannot be supported. I answered that I found Lord North's mind made up to those sentiments when I went into him, but that I thought I had had the satisfaction to see him give them up.

"In the course of this short conversation, I had occasion to say to Robinson, as I had done to Lord North before, that so far from its being thought a bad bargain in Ireland, in your Excellency's last letter to me the only anxiety you expressed was a fear that Mr. C. Fox should endeavour to be off. 'Aye,' says Robinson, 'we must see if we can't get about him.' 'No, there I must necessarily interpose,' rejoined your secretary, 'Mr. Fox is pledged to me. I could not put up with it.' 'By God!' says Robinson, 'Lord North must resign, he must go.' 'He will prob-

ably not go alone, if he does,' was all that I answered.

"I meant to have sent this tedious and untoward account to your Excellency last night, but my mind misgave me. Unwilling to give you unnecessary uneasiness I was wishing and had some design of passing by this transaction till better matter turned up; but, upon consideration, I have not thought myself warranted to withhold so much important intelligence from you. What is to be the event, I don't know; the *pour et contre* are both strong, in their ways, but my opinion is, in the teeth of it all, that we shall, we must, we will, prevail, God send.

"Keene, who is a gossip, but very much in Lord North's confidence, spoke to me upon the subject. I did not chuse to enter into particulars, but this much I was glad to tell him, that they were no friends to Lord North who advised or wished him to break this business when he was so publickly and solemnly pledged; it would be fair to add, nothing but keeping to his word will carry him thro' it.

"All the town, to-day, is full upon the American news; the 'Sukey' is arrived. It has been rather a bloody affair, but, since the troops stuck to their tackle, all is yet well. I'll get some extracts of letters for you in the evening. I am to dine with Lord Townshend; he is gone upon the

look out ; you will have the best fruits of his labors.

“ Respectfully, and most faithfully,

“ Your devoted and obliged Servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

“ *Duke-street, July 11th, 1775.*

“ MY LORD,—When I wrote last night to your Excellency to desire you would be pleased to send me a recommendation for the Pells for Mr. Jenkinson, I ought to have asked, at the same time, for a letter also recommending the pension of £1,700 a year, for 31 years, for Mr. Fox. It escaped me, I ask pardon ; I hope this may still come in time for the messenger ; if it does not, it is just so much time lost, and it is my fault.

“ Let me then request of you to send me an official to the lords of the treasury praying a pension of £1,700 a year, for 31 years, to the Honorable Charles Fox, to commence and bear date from the day of his resignation of the office of Clerk of the Pells.

“ And, as Mr. Fox has acted very honorably in this affair ; and, as he has signified to me his desire that the grant may be in several sums for the conveniency of better disposing of them ; give me

leave to request that you would be pleased to send me one other letter recommending a pension of £1,000 a year, for 31 years, and another pension of £700 a year, for 31 years, to the said M<sup>r</sup>. Fox ; to commence, both of them (like the other), from the date of his resignation of the Pells ; and, with your Excellency's permission, I shall deliver that letter which may best suit the temper of the time when they arrive, endeavoring to oblige M<sup>r</sup>. Fox if it be practicable.

“I am, with eternal attachment,

“Your Excellency's obliged and faithful Servant,

“J. BLAQUIERE.”

## Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

“SEPARATE.

*“August 1st, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—In my official letter of this date I have solely confined myself to what regards the Embarkation of the troops ; but I cannot avoid accompanying those instructions with this separate letter, to acquaint your Excellency that the most weighty considerations render it highly advisable to strengthen the King’s army in America, with all the re-inforcement that can be sent thither. This matter has been the subject of several serious meetings of his Majesty’s most confidential servants ; and they all have humbly submitted to the King their unanimous opinion, that two or three thousand men are essentially requisite to be sent with the utmost expedition to America.

\* \* \* \* \*

“It is not judged practicable at the present moment to spare any troops out of this Kingdom, there being only nine battalions of foot besides the Guards now in it. Nor is there time to draw any this year from Minorca or Gibraltar ; so that Ireland alone can supply what is now so necessary

towards resisting the unnatural and open rebellion which exists in so important a part of his Majesty's dominions; and which requires every nerve of government to be employed to suppress it. His Majesty, therefore, has the strongest reliance that your Excellency will, with firmness and activity, equal to the present emergency, employ your utmost endeavours in promoting the measures the King has adopted; and that his loyal people in Ireland will, in their different stations, be animated and excited to exert their well known affectionate zeal and spirit in supporting his Majesty's Government in an exigency of such particular importance. It is an emergency in which all other considerations, of how much weight soever they are in themselves, and which would have been, at other times, strictly attended to, must and ought to yield to actual unavoidable necessity. The King finds himself obliged, for the good of his whole Empire, to take five regiments from Ireland before it may be possible to raise sufficient recruits to supply the deficiency; but, at the same time that this resolution is taken, arrangements are also made that the deficiency of the numbers in the army in Ireland will be of short duration.

“As for what regards the completing and augmenting the corps in Ireland, it will be the subject of another letter by this messenger.

“I am with the greatest truth, &c.”



## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ August 13th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—After the strongest instance of his Majesty’s most gracious condescension to my request in favour of Mr. Flood, and the immense trouble your Lordship has had on that account, you will scarce believe when I inform you that he declined accepting the Vice-treasurership. I have had a great deal of conversation with him, at different times, in which he employed every art and insinuation to persuade me that, from his first interview with Sir John Blaquiere, the faith of Government had been pledged to him for the first great employment that should be vacant, except the Muster Master General’s. He thought in fact he should have succeeded the late Provost, or should have been posted to some other great situation, that might have placed him upon an equal footing with the other great officers of the Crown, and have enabled him to serve his Majesty more effectually. He said he made no doubt of my kindness to him, and, therefore, could be under no apprehension of any thing that might happen to him during my administration; but who could answer for those that might succeed

me? They might treat him with less regard and attention, and dismiss him from an employment of a very precarious tenure without ceremony.

\* \* \* \* \*

“When, however, he perceived that all the art he had employed, and all the arguments he had urged, made no impression upon me, and that I represented to him the necessity of giving me a decisive answer whether he would, or would not, accept the employment that was offered to him; he told me that, in consideration of the great trouble I had had, and, to shew his very great regard for me, he was willing to waive his just claim to a more desirable situation, and to accept the Vice-treasurership, provided it was not to induce any additional burthen on this Kingdom. I told him it was but reasonable to suppose that such an arrangement as had been made to accommodate him could not be effected without some charge to the public; and that as Ireland was, on the one hand, to be benefitted by the arrangement, it was but fair this country should bear the burthen of it. I promised that I would make a faithful report of what had passed; but that, after the very extraordinary concessions that had been made, it would be indecent in me to importune your Lordship any more, in expectation of relieving this establishment at the expense of Great Britain. I could propose no such thing,

and, therefore, he might conclude there would be an end of the affair.

"I can account no otherwise for this very extraordinary determination of Mr. Flood's than as proceeding from the very high opinion he entertains of his parliamentary abilities, which may make him imagine that any concessions, even greater than those already made, would readily be submitted to on the part of government. It is still possible he may make some further proposal, and condescend to accept this great office, though I scarce expect he will take so prudent a part. But, at all events, it must be for his Majesty's service that this office may be kept open; as nothing is so likely to operate powerfully on some of the leading interests of this Kingdom; which makes me hope that his Majesty's government may derive no less advantage from Mr. Flood's refusal, than from his acceptance of the Vice-treasurership.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

*"August 21st, 1775.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that the different corps of cavalry and dragoons on this establishment begin to shew a most noble ardour for the American ser-

vice, of which I shall endeavour to make the utmost advantage. There have been so many applications for permission to go as volunteers, and to enlist in the regiments ordered to America, that it has been thought proper to restrain the numbers allowed to go abroad to 12 men per regiment of two squadrons, and to 18 men from the Royal Irish. The 12 out of the Blue Horse, now in Dublin, march out to-morrow morning. More offered their service, and expressed a concern that they were not permitted to go. I have sent out one of my aid-de-camps, and another officer in whom I can confide, to the different quarters of horse and dragoons, that this affair may be carried into execution in the manner the most agreeable to the officers as well as the private men of the different corps.

“The corps of Artillery, than which nothing can be finer, was among the first that manifested a most laudable spirit on the occasion. Between 40 and 50 of them have been very pressing to go to America; but, as the whole corps consists of no more than 200 men, rank and file, and that they have still 18 old men who are subsisted by the corps, and are, consequently, an incumbrance upon it, I was unwilling to weaken the corps of Artillery too much, and, therefore, have only consented to the enlisting of six of them into the 46<sup>th</sup> regiment that marched from hence this morning.

I have, however, some thoughts of permitting, as a matter of great favour, about 20 more to embark in the same service, as I do not apprehend they can be employed in any way more acceptable to the King.

“I hope what has been done will have the good fortune to be approved of by his Majesty. If, without doing any essential detriment to the horse and dragoons, and Artillery, we can furnish the American army with near 150 trained men, fit for Grenadier companies, I hope it will be deemed an essential service; more especially as it will, in a great measure, answer the purpose of drafting men from the other regiments to complete the five regiments ordered to embark by the 10<sup>th</sup> of September for America.

“Three young gentlemen of the College have determined to go volunteers with those regiments to America; which I should not mention if it was not to shew the spirit that begins to prevail.

“I should not do justice to the whole corps of Artillery, the officers as well as men, if I did not acquaint your Lordship that they wish for nothing more than an opportunity of shewing their zeal for his Majesty's service; and their readiness to embark in this or any other service, where his Majesty may think fit to employ them. I am inclined to flatter myself that the spirit which has already appeared in the army, will contribute not

a little to the success of recruiting the corps that are to be augmented in order to complete this establishment.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“August 27th, 1775.”*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The event which I suggested to your Lordship, in my letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, is come to pass. Mr. Flood seems at present disposed to have some further talk with me about the Vice-treasurership. I thought it right, however, not to bring the matter to a conclusion until I hear again from your Lordship; lest any thing may have happened, in consequence of my letter, on your side the water, to create any obstruction in this business; though I must be candid enough to own that I am not in the least apprehensive that this employment will be disposed of, because it would deprive me of the means of making an arrangement that is likely to remove every material difficulty that can arise in the ensuing session of parliament.

“I am quite ashamed that your Lordship should have this further trouble after the extraordinary anxiety this affair has already given you; but I must beg you to consider that I have had to do

with a man who, though of the greatest consequence in this country, is, I am sorry to say, very difficult to deal with.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

“*September 1st, 1775.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—The enclosed letter, which I received from General Irwin, will explain, much better than I can do, the reasons that have prevailed on him to mention the particular circumstances of the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Had they been known to him sooner I might have had better opportunity of knowing his Majesty’s pleasure in due time. At all events, I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship that, from the best accounts I can procure, neither the Lieut.-Colonel nor Major are, by any means, fit to be entrusted with the command of a regiment.

“I am, &c.”

LETTER REFERRED TO, FROM GENERAL IRWIN  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY EARL HARCOURT,  
DATED 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1775.

“MY LORD,—Notwithstanding I had resolved not to trouble your Excellency with any more memorials, from officers of the regiments under



orders for embarkation, to sell, yet I must once more presume, for the sake of the service, to trouble you. For the honour of the service I have refused several. For the safety of the service I must recommend it to your Excellency's consideration that Major Morris, of the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment, may have leave to sell; as I think it would be highly improper, and might be injurious to the King's service, to run the hazard of his commanding a regiment in a critical moment. He came to me. He talked to me of buying. He then talked of selling. He then found fault with this most just and necessary war his Majesty is obliged to make against his rebellious subjects. Then, when I would have interrupted him, he thundered out a hundred Greek lines from Homer. He then talked to me out of 'Plutarch's Lives.' In brief, my Lord, he convinced me that he will be better out of the King's service than in it.

"I am extremely concerned that no purchaser can be found for Lieut.-Colonel Beckwith's commission, of the same regiment; for, besides his infirmities, I have his own word added to the testimony of other people that he is mad. Now surely, my Lord, both these field officers should not be permitted to go with that regiment.

"Since I began this, Colonel Darby of the 17<sup>th</sup> regiment has been with me humbly requesting your Excellency's permission to dispose of his

Lieut.-Colonelcy. I never saw the gentleman before, but he is in a most wretched state of health, overcome with the gout, and barely able to walk. He protests to me that he has been about to sell these three years, and that he shall only be put on board ship to die. I beg to know your Excellency's pleasure upon this officer. Be assured, my Lord, that the peculiarity of these cases is the only motive for my troubling you on a subject that I feel myself, in general, ill disposed to give countenance to.

"I am, &c."

## Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

*"September 19th, 1775.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency did me justice in believing that I would not dispose of the Vice Treasurer's place while there remained any hopes that Mr. Flood would accept of it. I trust your Excellency will be able to secure him, as the office still continues open and at his service. But Sir John Blaquiere will have explained to you that, if Mr. Flood declines it, I shall think myself at liberty to give it to an English Member of Parliament. When he was in England he understood the footing upon which I promised to recommend Mr. Flood. My British friends, although a little out of humour at the transaction, are reconciled to Mr. Flood; but, if he should decline, and another gentleman of Ireland should be proposed in his place, it would cause much displeasure, where it is of the utmost importance to the publick that good humour should prevail. The conduct of the British House of Commons towards the Crown has, for several years past, been so loyal, so steady, and, indeed, so disinterested, that it would be of the worst consequence to the King's affairs that they should

suppose themselves sacrificed to the importunities of any body of men in other parts of his Majesty's dominions.

"I have been in constant motion for some time past, and much hurried both in town and country, which has prevented me from giving that attention that I could wish to Irish business. Since my last return to London Mr. Robinson tells me that he has received a letter from Sir John Blaquiere desiring my opinion as to the manner of securing the Vice-treasurers for the future. Two methods have been suggested, viz<sup>t</sup>, a fixed salary producing £2,500 a year clear in England, or a vote in Parliament to reimburse them for the fees which they lose by the anticipation of the bounties which are paid out of the revenue before it comes into the Exchequer. I have not yet had time thoroughly to consider these two methods, but I will send him over my determination in a few days.

"Mr. Hamilton, who has taken charge of this letter, is already so much obliged to your Excellency that I should be ashamed to mention his name to you again, did I not understand that your goodness in bringing him into Parliament was principally in order to have a fairer pretence for shewing further favours to him. Your Excellency need not be told how sensibly your kindness to him is felt by your most faithful, &c."

From Lord North to Sir John Blaquiere:—

*“September 19th, 1775.*

“DEAR SIR,— . . . I suppose you have heard of Mr. Fox's difficulty about his pension. It seems that no man holding a pension during pleasure, or for a term of years, can sit and vote in Parliament without being liable to pay £20 a day. I do not know what method he will take to secure himself. As to myself I shall certainly not molest him, but he will be in continual danger of being disturbed, and, indeed, of being expelled, as by another Act no person in his circumstances is capable of being elected. In truth I believe he is utterly disqualified from sitting in Parliament by his acceptance of the pension. This you will keep secret, for, though I fear it will be known it ought not to be known by you or me.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ September 20th, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship will excuse the liberty I take, of requesting the favour of you to let me know his Majesty’s pleasure with regard to the Vice-treasurership. Parliament meets on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, which will very speedily bring the members to town. It would therefore be very inconvenient, at so critical a time, not to be in full possession of those powers which, I flatter myself, may be employed for the furtherance of his Majesty’s service.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ The Duke of Leinster has lately shewn a good disposition towards government.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ What his expectations may be I do not know, but, if they prove as reasonable as I am told they are likely to be, there will be no great difficulty in gratifying them.

“ Mr. Ponsonby continues canvassing for the chair, which he pretends to say he is sure of; but some of his most confidential friends are fair enough to own that he has little chance

of succeeding, and that the steps he is now taking have no other view than to make a parade of his interest, in order to obtain the more advantageous terms from government.

“I am, &c.”



## Letter from Roman Catholics.

LETTER from some of the principal Roman Catholics in Ireland addressed to Sir John Blaquiere, dated 30th September, 1775 :—

“SIR,—We flatter ourselves that the occasion the motives, and your goodness, will engage you to excuse this trouble. We are informed that an intended subscription among us, his Majesty’s affectionate, loyal, and dutiful Roman Catholic subjects of his Kingdom of Ireland, to raise a fund among ourselves to be employed in encouraging recruits to enlist for his Majesty’s service, was not judged necessary to government. Yet we are desirous to give every assistance in our power, and to give every proof of our sincere, affectionate, and grateful attachment to the most sacred person and government of the best of Kings; and to express our just abhorrence of the unnatural rebellion which has lately broke out among some of his American subjects. Impressed with a deep sense of our duty and allegiance, and feeling ourselves loudly called upon by every motive, and by every tie that can affect the hearts of good and loyal subjects, we take the liberty to make, on this interesting occasion, a humble tender of our duty, zeal, and affection to our good and

gracious King. We humbly presume to lay at his feet two millions of loyal, faithful, and affectionate hearts and hands, unarmed indeed, but zealous, ready, and desirous to exert themselves strenuously in defence of his Majesty's most sacred person and government, against all his enemies of what denomination soever, in any part of the world where they may be.

"And we desire to exert in an active manner a loyalty and an obedience, which, hitherto, though always unanimous, constant, and unalterable, from our particular circumstances and situation, have been restrained within passive and inactive bounds. A loyalty which, we may justly say, is, and always was, as the dial to the sun, true though not shone upon.

"And we take the liberty to request, Sir, that you will be so good as to represent to his Excellency our Lord Lieutenant, these our dispositions and sentiments, which we well know to be those also of all our fellow Roman Catholic Irish subjects, with our humble request to his Excellency that, if he thinks it proper, he may be so good as to lay them before his Majesty, &c.

"*Signed*, FINGALL, TREMBLESTONE, JOSEPH BARNWELL, BARTHOLOMEW BARNWELL, ROBERT CADDELL, JOHN JOHNSTONE, ANTHONY DERMOT, JAMES REYNOLDS, MYLES KEON, and JOHN CURRY."

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 6th, 1775.*

“MY LORD,—As your messenger is in a hurry to return, I will only detain him long enough to mention to you in five lines a matter of considerable importance which has been in contemplation on this side of the water, but which will not be determined until we have heard your opinion. The necessity of having a large army early in the field, next spring, in America, on the one hand, and the difficulties which occur in recruiting the British troops, on the other, will make it expedient to employ foreign troops. The Duke of Brunswick and the Hereditary Prince of Hesse Cassel have made the King an offer of theirs. His Majesty, I believe, intends to take 4,000 of them into his pay, and wishes to send them into Ireland to replace about six regiments of British troops which he would, in that case, send to America. No step, however, of this kind will be resolved upon until he has received your Excellency's sentiments upon the subject, namely, what offence such a measure may give in Ireland, and what will be the best manner of carrying it into execu-

tion, if your Excellency should think that the Irish parliament may be induced to give their consent to it. Nothing can be more advantageous for the publick than such a measure, because nothing would contribute more to bring the war to a speedy conclusion. We, however, are not insensible, on this side of the water, of the difficulties it may meet with in Ireland, and are, therefore, desirous that the proposition should be fully considered by your Excellency before it is mentioned publickly.

“ I am, &c.”

## Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*“ October 9th, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I have, at last, settled every thing with Mr. Flood, who accepts of the Vice-treasurership, which I have pledged myself to procure for him within the space of ten days, or a fortnight at furthest. He is at present a good deal out of order, and confined at home, which may prevent his taking any part in the business of the House for some days at least ; and perhaps till such time as the King’s letter for his appointment to the Vice-treasurership shall reach at Dublin. Until that happens, your Lordship may conceive that his situation is awkward enough. Since I was born I never had to deal with so difficult a man ; owing, principally, to his high strained ideas of his own great importance and popularity. But the acquisition of such a man, however desirable at other times, may prove more than ordinarily valuable in the difficult times we may live to see, and which may afford him a very ample field for the display of his great abilities. If he exerts them, as he ought to do, in the service of the Crown, I shall think myself amply re-

warded for all the pains I have taken to bring this long depending affair to a happy issue.

"I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my most grateful sense of his Majesty's unbounded goodness to me in so graciously affording me the means of making this arrangement. And I must ever acknowledge the various instances of your Lordship's good offices and generous support throughout the course of this very tedious business. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

*"October 11th, 1775.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—You will not be surprised to be troubled with this letter by a messenger, when it is to inform your Lordship that last night at 11 o'clock the House of Commons agreed to a resolution, upon a division of something more than two to one, declaring their allegiance to his Majesty, and their abhorrence of the American rebellion. Nor must you be surprised that the resolution itself brings you the first account of my having engaged in this serious matter. The truth is, that the determination upon it was only lately had.

"I saw the moment approaching when this important question would have been pressed upon

me by the opposition to the King's government in a way in which I should have had great difficulties in dealing with it; therefore it became absolutely necessary for me to take a decisive part.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Presbyterians in the North, who, in their hearts, are Americans, were gaining strength every day; and letters wrote by designing men, whom I could name, from your side of the water, have been sent over to encourage Ireland to take an adverse part in the contest. These letters endeavoured to get at the people through their pride; telling them that the decision of the quarrel was on this side of St. George's Channel. I have, therefore, for these last few days been incessantly employed, and I have been obliged to conduct myself with all possible secrecy; not daring to trust too much to certain interested persons, whom it is not necessary for me, at this time, to name to your Lordship.

"The debate was conducted with great vehemence on the part of Opposition, which was composed of Mr. Ponsonby's and the Duke of Leinster's followings, and a few country members. Our majority consisted of the most respectable people, and the debate mostly, if not entirely, conducted by Sir John Blaquiére and Mr. Scott, whose zeal and whose abilities are so well known to your Lordship that I shall not add another word.



“What I have done I trust may be agreeable to his Majesty, *and I should hope of no small service to your Lordship's administration.* For my own part I shall confess to you that I feel such a glow of mind upon the occasion of the victory which has been obtained, that I have in my life never passed moments so happy as those have been since this question was determined. Our numbers were 99 to 49; in the House of Lords 31 to 5. For particulars I refer your Lordship to the minutes.

“I am, &c.”

## Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

*“ October 15th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency’s messenger will bring you back the warrant for Mr. Flood’s appointment, with my best congratulations upon the glorious opening of your campaign. I must add, likewise, my best thanks, for I am truly sensible of the great advantage that British government here may receive from this seasonable declaration of the Irish parliament. If I have any merit with your Excellency, it is in the real satisfaction I feel in every thing that contributes to the honor and comfort of your administration, and in endeavouring to promote them, as I shall always do from a principle of inclination as well as duty.

“Although your Excellency cannot yet have had time to consider, much less to answer, the question I put to you in my last upon the subject of foreign Protestant troops, I beg leave to trouble you with another upon the same subject. Does your Excellency think that the proposal of sending to Ireland 4,000 Hessians and Brunswickers would go down with the people if the expense is borne by Great Britain, and Ireland thereby

relieved from so much of her military Establishment? Perhaps the circumstance of taking the expense upon ourselves, while the Irish have the advantage of the defence accruing from this measure, may make it not unacceptable on your side of the water.

“The resolution taken by the North American Colonies not to furnish any provisions to the British army, the British dominions in Europe, or the British Colonies in the West Indies, will bring a prodigious demand upon Ireland. You will be called upon to supply food for a large army in America, consisting, perhaps, of 20 or 30,000 men; all the British Islands in the West Indies, as well as the Spanish and French Colonies in the same part of the world. This will probably raise the price of all provisions exceedingly, and may even render the supply of our own army and our own Colonies precarious. Some persons, alarmed at this prospect, have suggested the necessity of an embargo restraining the exportation of Irish provisions to the British army and dominions. But it is so much my constant wish to do what is the most acceptable to Ireland, and the necessity of being particularly attentive, in the present moment, to please the Irish is so evident, that I would not give any answer to the suggestions made to me till I had consulted your Excellency. If you apprehend that an embargo

will give much offence in Ireland I will not think of it. Although I am so immediately connected with the money transactions of this country, I will consent to the increase of expense rather than quarrel with the people of Ireland. Nothing would make me risk their displeasure but an apprehension of a total failure of supply; in which case I trust that an embargo would be justified even in their own eyes.

“I am, &c.”

END OF VOL. IX.

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